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THE TIMES

SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21 1991

40p

Thatcher warns of EC traps and calls for referendum on single currency

'Let the people speak'

Downing Street refuses to rule out poll idea

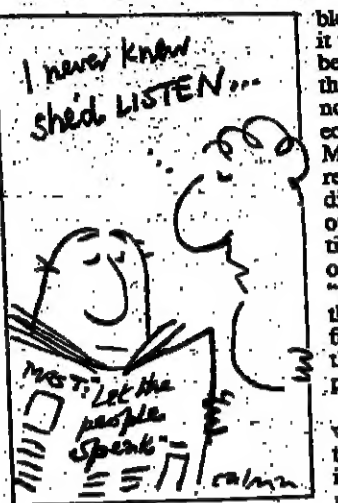
By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher hijacked the Commons debate on the European Community yesterday, warning against the "conveyor belt to federalism". She urged the government not to be trapped into a single currency and demanded a referendum for the British people if the three main parties agree on launching Britain on the road to full monetary union.

She said: "Anyone who does not consider it has to explain how the voice of the people shall be heard. We should let the people speak, otherwise we shall be depriving them of their say over rights which are not only taken away from them but from future generations and which we know that once they have gone, they will not come back."

Mrs Thatcher appeared to have made immediate progress last night with her call for a plebiscite.

John Major has firmly ruled out a referendum between now and the next election. Only on Tuesday he said there would be no referendum



"because we are a parliamentary democracy". But Downing Street last night opened the possibility of a referendum in the next parliament.

It was emphasised that referenda were not merely for governments to propose. If a sufficient number of MPs backed an early day motion calling for a referendum at that stage then the government would be forced to consider responding.

Mr. Major, in a careful exposition to MPs of Britain's sticking points, warned his EC partners that Britain was not bluffing in its demands for revisions to the draft treaty for the Maastricht summit.

"They believe that Britain will argue hard against many of the proposals, object to them, protest, but that when we sign up to whatever is on offer at the 5th minute of the 11th hour, I urge them not to make that judgment. It would be fatal."

Last night, Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, attacked concessions to Britain on the draft Maastricht treaties. He told Euro MPs in Strasbourg that the proposed treaty on political union was so weak as to jeopardise efforts to form the "ever closer union" to which the EC is committed.

"Will such a structure be dynamic enough for future EC enlargement? The answer is no", M. Delors said.

In the Commons, Neil Kinnock, who provoked a barrage of Tory interruptions after calling a Conservative questioner a jerk, appeared to commit Labour more solidly than ever before to a single currency, telling the government that "opting out would mean losing out" and that there was "no semi-detached arrangement to be had that will serve Britain's interests".

The Labour leader accused the government of "playing for a draw" in negotiations and being ready for the sake of covering party splits, to consign Britain to a second league in Europe.

Mr. Major, who cautioned that it might be a deal that was "genuinely unobtainable", promised the Tory sceptics on a single European currency, "Whether to join, not just when to join, will be matters of separate decision, by government and parliament. No thing in any treaty I sign will bind us now to the decision we must take then."

He disagreed with those who said that pressures to join a single currency and independent central bank later would be irresistible if Britain did not

block both now and said that it was "damagingly wrong" to believe that, if we did, most of the other 11 countries would not then make a separate economic union treaty. Mr. Major did call a single currency if convergence conditions were met "the means of safeguarding anti-inflationary policies for the whole of the Community". But that "great prize", he said, carried the price that it would "take from national governments the control of monetary policy".

While Mr. Major's speech was listened to with care for the clues to Britain's negotiating stance Mrs Thatcher once more stole the show with a bravura performance. She insisted that there was a string of points on which there must be "no surrender", urged Mr. Major to use a cricket bat as the replacement for her handbag and scorned Mr. Kinnock's contribution by saying that his argument "if others have it, we must" was "an argument for a flock of sheep".

She urged the government not to become trapped in a process which would make the eventual adoption of a single currency inevitable and warned: "The history of our dealings with the European Community seems to consist of our conceding powers, with reassurances being given about their limits, of those limits being breached, and then the European Community coming back with a new set of demands for more power to the commission."

She spoke of her fears that Douglas Hurd and the Foreign Office had "wobbled" and demanded to be assured of the good faith of the European negotiations.

Mrs Thatcher said that under the circumstances she outlined "the only thing is to go to a referendum because that in fact puts clearly the issue, the merits and the demerits". If her speech was rambling by her past standards it lacked nothing in impact as the glum faces on the government front bench testified. At one stage she appeared to be advocating that Britain should use the veto and let the others who wanted monetary union go ahead with their own treaty.

Delors mocks, page 18
Diary, page 18



Warning note: Margaret Thatcher telling the House to beware of federalism



"Nothing in any treaty I sign will bind us now to the decision we must take then"

—John Major



"There is no semi-detached arrangement to be had that will serve Britain's interests"

—Neil Kinnock



"Will such a structure be dynamic enough for enlargement? The answer is no"

—Jacques Delors

Israel raises stake in hostage swap

By RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

ISRAEL yesterday appeared to harden its position on the recovery of its servicemen, when its surrogates in Lebanon raided a Shia Muslim village near the Israeli border, detaining four men, destroying two houses and killing a girl, aged 10.

The action, by the South Lebanon Army occurred just outside Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon early yesterday. The Israeli raid was puzzling since it comes at a time when it is seeking information on the fate of its own servicemen from Hezbollah, but it appeared to send a signal to the fundamentalist Shia militia that the Jewish state is prepared to intensify its current offensive in spite of any disadvantage it might suffer.

Yesterday, Hezbollah said that the hostage issue was no longer linked to the release of Lebanese prisoners held in Israel. The statement appeared to remove the last obstacle to the release of all remaining Western hostages. The Iranian news agency, quoting sources in Beirut, announced that American hostage Joseph Cicippio would be freed next week.

But Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, on a tour of Israeli army installations near the Lebanese border, said: "Our activity is intensive and will continue to be intensive. As long as Hezbollah is in the field we will continue to attack them."

A spokesman for the UN in southern Lebanon said that Irish peacekeeping troops discovered the body of the girl in the rubble of one of the houses blown up by the Israeli-backed militiamen. The men detained were identified as Mahmoud Yassin, his two elder sons and his brother. They were believed to have been taken to the nearby Khiam jail, where Israel is holding an estimated 300 Lebanese prisoners.

The three-way hostage swap process, set in motion by the United Nations, involved freeing all the Western captives, the Israeli servicemen and the Lebanese detainees. The release of the detainees is seen as crucial to the exchange for six Israelis, one of whom, Captain Ron Arad, is still believed to be alive. But yesterday's military action strengthened suspicions that the Western hostage saga will end soon, leaving Israel and Lebanon no nearer to winning freedom for their captives.

Mr Arens seemed to reflect the hardening of positions when he said: "There is no need for gestures, we have already made them."

How Waite was lured, page 3
Egyptian plea, page 13
Leading article, page 19

Yugoslav army launches heavy attack on new Croat target

By BILL FROST IN SID AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AS THE evacuation of Vukovar continued yesterday, Yugoslav army batteries turned their sights on a new Croatian target, the city of Osijek to the northwest. A heavy bombardment began at dawn and was still in progress last night. No casualty figures were available.

The renewed offensive against Osijek has fuelled fears in Croatia that the Serb-led army's territorial ambitions were not satisfied by the capture of Vukovar. In Zagreb, the Croatian capital, the belief is that the army will also move against Vinkovci, to the west of Vukovar, which has a substantial Serb community.

Croatian refugees leaving Vukovar in a convoy yesterday also came under fire. Another refugee convoy which tried to reach Croatian-controlled territory was blocked by landmines and turned back. Red Cross officials and federal army troops earlier evacuated more than 400 seriously wounded civilians from the shell-scarred cellar hospital in Vukovar.

Serbian radio claimed yesterday that fleeing Croatian forces had committed a series of atrocities before the town's fall. According to Belgrade Radio's account, the bodies of 40 children had been found in a schoolroom at a village on the northern outskirts of Vukovar. The radio claimed their throats had been cut.

With Serb forces preventing access to the village yesterday, however, it was impossible to verify the report. The Croatian government demanded an international investigation by the Red Cross, the European Community and other groups into the allegations.

The patients at Vukovar hospital, many with critical wounds, were yesterday in the care of Red Cross officials who had been prevented from moving them on Tuesday by last-ditch fighting in the devastated town centre. Red Cross officials were angered by the role of the federal army in the evacuation. "We were to be in charge of moving the wounded to a hospital in Croatia, but they just took over," a spokesman said.

The last few hundred civilian survivors of the siege emerged from the sewers looking haggard, frightened and

bewildered. Buses took Serb refugees to the garrison town of Sid and then to emergency centres. Wherever possible they are to be sheltered by friends or relations. For those without either, the future is grim and perplexing.

An old man with a battered cardboard suitcase stood by the refugee bus looking lost. "Where am I to go. I have nowhere to go, nobody who cares. My home is in ruins. I should have died in Vukovar, it would be better," he said.

A mother with her two children and pet dog told of looting in Vukovar before the town fell. A Croat herself, she accused her own people in the

Continued on page 24, col 4

Test for Europe, page 10

Maxwell finances falter on loan call

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE Maxwell family, two weeks after the death of Robert Maxwell, is trying to fend off the threat of receivership, after one of its banks demanded the repayment of a £55 million loan to one of the family's companies.

Shares in Maxwell Communication Corporation fell to a low yesterday, reflecting the market's concern. But Mirror Group Newspapers climbed to a high, after speculation that Kerry Packer, the Australian media owner, was interested in buying a majority stake.

The family's finances are faltering after Swiss Bank requested the repayment of a loan made in July.

Some 25 banks, led by National Westminster Bank, will meet early next week to discuss the family's finances.

Kevin Maxwell, who assumed most of his father's chairmanships, was unavailable for comment last night. He is known to have spent most of the day meeting his lawyers and bankers.

Details, page 25

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

MODERN TIMES



William Waldegrave faces increased pressure with the results of the latest survey on British social attitudes. As the new Modern Times page explains, almost half the nation is now dissatisfied with the NHS. Page 9

BROWNE ON



Craig Brown, who was yesterday awarded the Edgar Wallace trophy for his humorous columns in The Times by the London Press Club, today continues his saga of an obscure backbencher's attempts to persuade Sir Norman Fowler to stand as Tory leader. Page 18

SEEING BOOKING



Meg Tilley stars in *Falmer* and *The Two Jakes*, two of the films reviewed by Geoff Brown. Page 17

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12 pages of top jobs in today's appointments section, circulated in Britain



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Pupils to be streamed under GCSE reform

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS will have to stream children according to ability under reforms for the GCSE examination announced by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday. The reforms will limit the amount of coursework that can be entered for the examination and introduce papers of varying difficulty to raise the standards of the most able pupils, Mr Clarke said.

The amount of coursework is to be reduced for the 1994 examinations but, as reported in *The Times* this week, in many subjects it will still be double the total 20 per cent suggested by the prime minister earlier this year.

The biggest change will be in English, where coursework will account for up to 40 per cent of the total marks compared with the 100 per cent in half the papers set by 650,000 pupils this summer. Mr Clarke said he believed that the reliance on coursework had led to a drift of grades,

although he accepted that others would argue that the GCSE had led to a large and rapid improvement in standards.

He said his doubts were fuelled by the fact that at the introduction of the GCSE in 1988, 44 per cent of pupils gained grades from A to C whereas the figure rose to 54 per cent this year. In science, which relied on less coursework, the improvement had been from 42 to 47 per cent.

Coursework had its place but could not be relied upon to judge children evenly. "Some teachers are more severe than others in marking coursework while others are more relaxed. An examination will ensure that all the grades are accurate and reliable," he said.

Mr Clarke said that a national system with recognised standards awarding the highest grades only to those who took the most difficult papers would lead to uniform grades. Up to four overlapping papers

of varying difficulty in all academic subjects will be introduced at the same time "to stretch the ability of the most able so that they do not have to answer questions foolishly below their ability and to protect the less able being ruthlessly exposed to papers they cannot answer".

He confirmed that the GCSE grading system would also be changed in 1994 from A to G to mirror the ten attainment levels set in the national curriculum. The new grade ten would be superior to the present A, which would be equivalent to nine on the new scale, while G would be equivalent to four.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, accused the government of trying to restore O-levels by the back door. "This is a reactionary return to the worst aspects of O-level, which the government itself abandoned," he said. Labour would reverse the decision if it won the general election.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The government has never given any real educational arguments behind this quite severe [coursework] reduction." The National Union of Teachers condemned the proposals for encouraging streaming and reviving a "strait-jacket" education.

Russian criticises British schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH education has grown used to unflattering comparisons with Japan, the United States and other parts of western Europe, but few thought that schools and universities were lagging behind those in Russia.

That is the claim made today by the Russian writer Vitali Vitaliev, who describes himself as an anglophile of many years' standing. In *As Others See Us*, on Radio 4 this morning, he insists that Russians leave school with a better command of their own language and a wider general knowledge. By the age of 11, British pupils are up to two years behind.

Mr Vitaliev says that British university language students cannot spell, geography students do not know the capital of Australia, and even the British Museum gets its Russian wrong.

British youths glory in their ignorance, he says, while the constant shortage of information in the Soviet Union has

caused every scrap of knowledge to be treasured. In Britain, by contrast, primary and secondary schools have failed to overcome the prevailing apathy engendered by the ease of access to knowledge, he says.

Mr Vitaliev was a prominent journalist in Moscow until he escaped to the West with his family in 1989. After two years in England he moved to Australia and now lives in Melbourne.

Visits to English and Scottish universities during a book promotion tour last year confirmed his misgivings about educational standards. He had to explain to language students the meanings of words such as *treacher*, *treacherous*, *treacherousness*, as well as correct basic spellings. At the British Museum, he found six spelling mistakes in a three-word Russian caption to a map of St Petersburg.

As Others See Us, at 9.45am, will be repeated on Saturday at 10.45am.

Police to investigate Brixton escape claim

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ENQUIRY is to be held into allegations that a Special Branch operation helped two Provisional IRA suspects to escape from Brixton prison last July.

The investigation follows claims that a prison officer working as a police informant helped to plan the escape of Nessim Quinlivan and Pearse McAuley.

Charles Kelly, the chief constable of Staffordshire, announced the enquiry after allegations made in the television programme *Thames Reports*, which claimed that Staffordshire Special Branch officers, working without the knowledge of the prison

authorities or Scotland Yard, used an informant to gain the confidence of the two remand prisoners. The programme claimed that the two suspected IRA men were encouraged to plot an escape in an attempt to lure other terrorist suspects into a police trap.

As Mr Kelly announced the enquiry, Labour demanded that Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, make a Commons statement. Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, called on Mr Baker to "tell the truth".

The enquiry will be carried out by Colin Bailey, the deputy chief constable of Nottinghamshire.

Dog bite victim gets £55,000

By KERRY GILL

A FORMER veterinary surgeon's receptionist who had a leg amputated after being bitten by one of her employers' dogs was awarded £55,000 yesterday.

Anne Hill, aged 36, of Causewayhead, near Stirling, sued Ian and Margaret Lovett for £150,000 at the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court. The court was told that Mrs Hill was attacked by one of the couple's West Highland terriers while working in a garden behind the surgery in Stirling in October 1986.

She had just finished cleaning a window when the dog jumped out from behind a hedge and bit her. She had to use a chair to force it away. Mrs Lovett treated the wound and Mrs Hill later went to her doctor, but the wound did not heal in spite of repeated courses of antibiotics and six operations.

She eventually asked a surgeon to amputate her leg below the knee and had an artificial limb fitted. She said: "There was just no quality to my life and I asked him if he would amputate and get rid of this thing attached to the end of the knee." The operation was carried out in May 1988.

Mr and Mrs Lovett, who denied liability, said the dogs were not vicious and had no history of aggression. Lord Weir, the judge, said it might be thought remarkable that a small bite from a terrier should have such terrible consequences but medical evidence had shown that sometimes a dog bite could produce organisms which were highly resistant to treatment. He said Mrs Hill had endured years of pain and misery and continued to face handicaps in the future.

He said: "Mrs Hill had shown outstanding courage in enduring, while in her early thirties, these traumatic experiences and she demonstrates resilience of the highest degree in facing the future."

Gummer boosts land protection

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER dozen of England's most beautiful landscapes are to be added to the areas of countryside that farmers are paid to protect, the agriculture minister, John Gummer, announced yesterday, in a move that delighted conservationists.

The Lake District, the Cotswolds and Dartmoor will be part of a substantial expansion of the programme of environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) for farming, with more than a doubling of the English ESAs from ten to 22, more than a trebling of them in extent, and a quintupling of the amount spent on them, from £13 million this year to nearly £65 million in 1994.

Over two and a half million acres of England will be covered by arrangements under which farmers who continue to manage and enhance traditional countryside features, such as heather moorland, chalk grassland or watermeadows, are paid sums, ranging from £10 to £300 an acre, reflecting the profit they have forgone by refraining from intensive farming methods. More than 3,100 farmers are already taking part. Four new ESAs are also proposed to go with the two in Wales, two more with the two in Northern

Ireland, and an as yet unspecified number to go with the five in Scotland.

Mr Gummer told a press conference yesterday that the expansion represented an enormous change in the scheme, in which, he said, Britain led the world. His enthusiasm was shared by environmentalists.

Six of the new English ESAs will be designated in 1992. They are: Exmoor, the north Dorset and south Wiltshire downs, the northwest Kent coast, the southwest Peak District and the Lake District. The remaining six, to be designated in 1993, are: Dartmoor, the Cotswolds, the Blackdown Hills on the Devon and Somerset border, the tributaries of the Upper Thames, the Essex coast, and the Stropshire hills. The precise areas have yet to be delineated, but Mr Gummer said they would more than triple the extent of the present ten ESAs, which is about 840,000 acres.

The proposed new ESAs for Wales are Anglesey, the Clwydian hills, Radnor and Preseli. New areas are proposed in Northern Ireland for Co Antrim (including Rathlin Island) and Fermanagh.

Gunman in siege surrenders

A gunman holding a policeman hostage in a Northwest London health centre gave himself up last night.

The police constable had volunteered to replace a member of the public seized earlier by the gunman. Chief Inspector Michael West of Harrow police said that the gunman had been demanding to see the doctor who had treated his wife before she died of cancer. The doctor, Mr Pinner, had last seen her hours.

Mr West said before the siege ended that one gun had already been taken from the man but he was thought still to have had another, as well as a large knife. "He made two demands. One was to speak to the lady GP who was treating his wife before she died of cancer. She has not come here."

The gunman's second request — to speak to Jill Palmer, health correspondent of the *Daily Mirror* — had been granted but she was not in the same room as the gunman and the PC, Mr West said.

Sub-standard

HMS Upholder, the first of the Royal Navy's latest diesel-powered submarines, is to be taken out of service for nearly a year to correct a fault which prevents the torpedo doors closing properly. Two more of the Upholder class boats will also be affected. The fault lay in the original design of the weapons system by the Admiralty Research Establishment, and will cost £10 million to put right.

RUC watchdog

An independent commissioner could be appointed to monitor complaints about police questioning of terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland, Lord Belstead, Minister for Security at Stormont, confirmed. The plan will be resisted by Unionists and some in the RUC but the Irish government is pressing for the scheme after allegations of ill-treatment at the RUC's Castlereagh centre.

Libel award

Jane Maksin, sister of the Duchess of York, won substantial libel damages in the High Court yesterday over articles in *Today* newspaper and in the *News of the World* which suggested that she had indulged in sexually promiscuous behaviour. Both newspapers agreed to pay her undisclosed damages and legal costs. They apologised for the distress caused to her by the articles.

CORRECTION

We regret that in our report on Monday about Karyn Smith, jailed for drug smuggling in Thailand, we incorrectly stated that her family's lawyer, Stephen Jakob, claimed to have been given a royal guarantee of a pardon. We also stated incorrectly that Thai legal representatives had threatened to drop her case, or had made conditions for continuing with it.

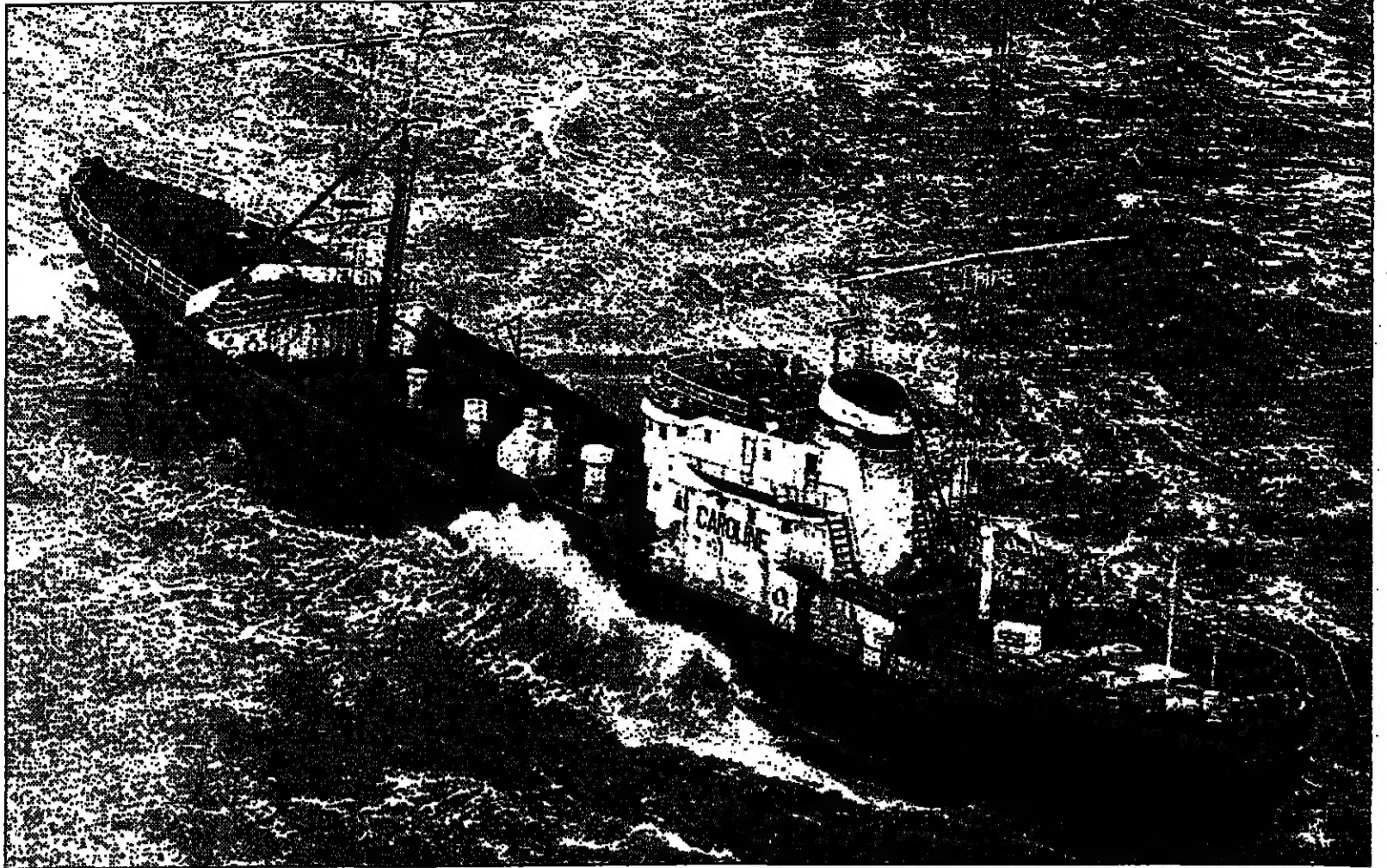


Chart stopper: the Ross Revenge, home of Radio Caroline, founders on the Goodwin Sands off the Kent coast yesterday. The six crew members were rescued by helicopter amid gale-force winds (Peter Victor writes).

Steve Conway, the station's head of news, said: "We may have lost Ross Revenge but Caroline will certainly return in the future in some form." Dover coastguards said the ship, a 980-ton 56-berth converted

fishing trawler, was grounded and keeled over on the sands, a notorious spot for shipwrecks.

Mr Conway said the vessel lost its anchor in the rough seas as the six crew members slept and drifted 17 miles. "There was an enormous jolt and everybody was flung into the air," he said. The crew assembled on deck and decided to wait for a tug.

Later, however, the vessel keeled over. A helicopter from RAF Manston winched the crew to safety

from the steeply sloping deck as water poured into the cabins. Radio Caroline, which took to the airwaves in the mid-1960s, stopped broadcasting in April after being silenced by the 1990 Broadcasting Act, which ended its immunity to raids by British authorities. The legislation stripped the station, anchored 12 miles off the Kent coast, of its protection from legal action.

Caroline was taking steps to become a legitimate satellite broadcaster and had secured airtime on a satellite transmitter to Norway for next Monday, Mr Conway said. The station, previously left the sea in 1988, after losing the vessel *Mi Amiga*.

Costguards said last night that the ship was probably not lodged in the sand: "Weather permitting, the next high water we may get her off. She has taken a bit of a pounding but that has reduced with the tide falling. I think she probably will survive."

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But look again more closely and you might notice something that's unique to our operation.

Every member of our workforce is blind or visually impaired.

If you find this fact hard to believe, that's precisely the reason we are taking this space.

At Action for Blind People, we are constantly striving to break down people's misconceptions of what it means to be blind. If that entails setting up an entire factory, then so be it.

Since 1857, Action for Blind People have run a factory which today is producing P.V.C. stationery for major companies like Barclays, Esso and British Rail.

It's real work that as well as offering a high quality product, gives blind people a sense of being a useful and active member of society.

Sadly, elsewhere, it is often the case that blind people aren't even considered when they apply for a job vacancy. Which can be a sorry waste of readily available talent.



Photo: Courtesy of John Higginson

Blindness in no way prevents a person from being articulate, intelligent or hard-working.

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To back up what we preach, we've put it into practice at our own factory. For instance, we've moved Moi Wong, a visually impaired employee, from the shop floor to an office job involving far

more responsibility. It's her task to deal directly with prospective clients and drum up business for our products.

Obviously, we needed to invest in specialised equipment to assist her. But aren't employees in any field given specific equipment, if their employer believes their talents warrant it?

Of course they are. And Moi, or any other blind person, should be no exception to this rule.

We would like to see more blind and visually impaired people in every line of employment offered similar chances to prove themselves.

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As our name suggests, our foremost priority is to promote action in all areas where blind people are concerned. And we try to do so with the minimum of red tape and bureaucracy.

If you'd like further information, or have a blind friend or relative who is in need of any kind of help, don't hesitate to ring us on 071 732 8771 and ask for Rachel Tripp.

And please remember, we rely totally on your support to continue our work. So any donations you care to give will be gratefully received.

However, for blind and partially sighted people to continue working there's something we need more desperately than money.

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Switch from national bargaining

Nurses told pay to be tied to performance

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS intend to introduce performance-related pay for 500,000 nurses and midwives from April 1993 in a further move away from national pay rates.

Senior health department officials met representatives from the nurses' pay review body last week to press the government's case for extending local pay flexibility to cover more than half the health service workforce. Preliminary soundings have also been taken with the staff side with the aim of drawing up a joint agreement, priced by the review body, to come into effect in 18 months.

The plan will also cover 34,000 professionals allied to medicine, such as physiotherapists and chiropodists, who have their pay determined by the same pay review body.

Under the department's self-financing plan, all staff concerned would get a basic annual pay rise, still set by the

pay review body. An additional £1 billion, just under 20 per cent of the nurses' pay bill, would be allocated by local managers in bonus payments.

Money now spent on unsocial hours payments and "lead payments" for nurses working in the geriatric and psychiatric fields would be gradually redistributed to fund the new scheme, according to health officials.

At present, nurses earn an additional £8.80 for working a night shift, £12.05 for working at the weekend and £15.35 for a public holiday. They are also paid extra for working on call in unsocial hours. Nurses working with the mentally ill receive an extra £385 a year, while those working with the elderly get £165 extra. Both those payments are expected to be frozen from April 1993. London allowances, worth between £1,205 to £1,700, may also be reviewed under the scheme.

It is still unclear what

criteria managers would be expected to use to reward performance, although it is understood payments could be linked to nurses accepting more flexible arrangements on wards. That could include more flexible rostering of duties with three separate eight-hour shifts.

Managers can also use the extra funds to reflect local labour market conditions where there are recruitment difficulties. In addition, nurses might get extra payments for reducing post-operative infection and more effective pain control.

Only managers, who make up less than 1 per cent of the health service workforce, have bonus payments related to performance at present. The 57 health service trusts already have the right to set their own pay rates for all staff although few have done so. Guy's Trust broke the mould last week by allocating an extra £5 a week for 1,400 low paid staff.

Two years ago, the government introduced a limited pilot scheme to test local pay flexibility for nurses linked to recruitment and retention, but not performance. Health officials argued last year that even modest supplements helped recruitment difficulties, but health service unions countered that flexible pay supplements caused resentment and damaged morale and would lead to spiralling pay rises in some parts of the country.

The pilot scheme was part of a drive by Kenneth Clarke, then health secretary, to move away from national pay bargaining. Merit money to top managers was extended to 7,000 middle managers in 1988 and during discussions on the white paper for health service reforms Mr Clarke was adamant that trusts would be able to set their own pay rates.

Eric Caines, NHS personnel director, has called for greater pay flexibility and has recently forecast a dwindling role for national pay bodies. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, has insisted however that the nurses' pay review body is not under threat.

NHS complaints, page 9
Health, page 15

Airlines seek cut in illegal entry fine

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIRLINES are pressing the government to cut the fine imposed for bringing passengers into Britain with incorrect papers.

A standing committee of MPs will today consider objections by carriers to the recent doubling of fines from £1,000 to £2,000 a passenger, which is costing British Airways more than £250,000 a month.

Protests from airlines flying into Britain have received support from MPs of all parties, largely because the increase was imposed by statutory instrument without any debate. Now the standing committee on statutory instruments will be asked to approve or disapprove the increases and hopes are rising among airlines that the committee will demand that the decision is overturned.

Among examples given to MPs is that of an American passenger whose flight from New York to Copenhagen was diverted to Glasgow with engine trouble. As there were no facilities at the airport the passengers were transferred to a hotel to wait while the aircraft was repaired, but the passenger did not have a visa to enter Britain. The airline was fined for bringing him into the country illegally.

In common with countries throughout the developed world, Britain is tightening immigration controls in an attempt to stem the flood — and according to airlines and shipping companies they are being made the scapegoats. Günter Esler, director general of the International Air Transport Association, which represents 200 airlines, said: "The airlines are already tax collectors for governments. Now it looks as though we are becoming

ing immigration officers." So far this year airlines have been fined a total of £14.5 million by Britain alone. Most of that has still not been paid. Many airlines have simply ignored the fines, claiming that the vast majority of "illegal" passengers are the result of genuine mistakes or deliberate evasions over which they have no control.

British Airways, which has paid the £6.5 million it has been charged, has run a long and bitter campaign against the fines. Lord King of Warburton, its chairman, said in the House of Lords recently that the law allowing the fines was "an unprincipled and pernicious piece of legislation which is incompatible with our parliamentary traditions and our civil liberties".

The Home Office maintains that the fines, introduced in 1987, are essential if airlines are to be made more accountable for the passengers they carry.

Emerald smugglers 'killed drugs baron'

COLOMBIAN emerald smugglers killed Roy Adkins, a London drugs baron, just six months after he had ordered the murder of Charlie Wilson, one of the Great Train Robbers, an inquest was told yesterday.

Adkins, aged 36, was gunned down as he sat in a hotel bar in Amsterdam. He had ordered Wilson's murder because he believed the former train robber had given permission for him to be named as a drugs gang boss in a trial in London, the inquest was told.

A senior police officer and a customs official told the hearing at Westminster coroner's court that there was no evidence to support either theory, but Det Supt Alec Edwards of Scotland Yard told Dr Paul Knapman, the coroner, that Adkins' death in September last year — six months after Wilson, aged 57, was shot at his Spanish villa — was drugs-related.

Dr Knapman recorded a verdict of unlawful killing on Adkins. He had recorded the same verdict on Wilson the day before. Mr Edwards said

he had liaised with Dutch police investigating Adkins' death. "There is much speculation and some evidence to suggest that this may have been linked with the death of Charlie Wilson," he said.

Adkins and Wilson knew each other and the murder was drugs-related. "The connection with the killing of Wilson is Adkins was the ringleader of a gang ordering the killing of Wilson," he said.

But he added: "There is no evidence to suggest that friends of Wilson took revenge and killed Adkins."

David Sterling, a customs officer, said a defendant in another drugs trial had said Adkins might have died at the hands of Colombian emerald smugglers, angered by the theft of a consignment of the stones.

Mr Sterling said Sean O'Neil last month told a £10 million cocaine-smuggling trial at Isleworth crown court, west London, that Adkins was a middleman for Colombian emerald smugglers. Mr O'Neil was acquitted of importing drugs.

Salvaged Scotch for sale

By ALAN BENNETT

MORE than 350 different whiskies, including a 60-year-old Macallan and others salvaged from a shipwreck, are to be auctioned by Christie's in a sale devoted entirely to whisky in their Glasgow salerooms next week.

The Macallan, distilled in 1926 and bottled in 1986, is one of only 12 produced and is expected to fetch more than £7,000. The bottle is housed in a brass-bound glass tangle and its label was designed by the pop artist Peter Blake.

Three extremely rare bottles recovered from the wreck of the Firth of Cromarty, which sank in 1898, are estimated to fetch more than £1,700. The diver, Peter Miller from Stranraer, brought them up in 1974

after locating the wreck three years earlier. Martin Green, Christie's whisky specialist, said: "The bottles are in remarkable condition considering the length of time spent under water." They include a bottle of Johnnie Walker (estimated to fetch £600 plus), a bottle of Whyne and MacKay (£600 plus), and a House of Commons Finest Old Highland (£500 plus), all distilled circa 1880-90.

A private collection from Renfrewshire includes a rare bottle of Glen Grant, a 59-year-old distilled in 1891 (about £2,000). Curiosity, a 44-year-old Lowland Malt distilled in 1864 (£500-£800) and a Lagavulin, a 30-year-old distilled in 1881 (up to £2,000). They belong to a couple who bought 10

bottles for a small sum in 1985. A bottle of Dallas Dhu, a 64-year-old Highland single malt, is estimated to fetch £3,000-£5,000. The Dallas Dhu distillery in Forres, Morayshire, was built in 1899. In the early 1980s, production ceased whilst trading as Scottish Malt Distilleries.

Mr Green said: "The sale provides a unique opportunity for the discerning collector to view a rare accumulation of 19th and early 20th-century single malt and blended whiskies, forming an important part of Scotland's heritage. The whisky collectors' market is growing, with greater interest being shown by those throughout the UK and from overseas."



Cool to be kind: a coat made from gold sycamore leaf making its debut for the annual fashion show by the anti-fur group Lynx at the London Hippodrome on Sunday

Larkins to return in ITV winter season

ITV announced its £130 million winter season yesterday, featuring six new series and the return of 10 others, including *The Darling Buds of May*.

Detective series are also prominent, with Michael Gambon playing Maigret, David Suchet as Hercule Poirot, Barry Foster as Van der Valk, John Thaw as Inspector Morse and Mark McManus as Taggart.

Nigel Havers and Keith Barron are in *The Good Guys*, about two characters with a knack of attracting trouble, and Jason Connery plays a young South Seas doctor in *The Other Side of Paradise*. Ralph Fiennes plays T.E. Lawrence in *A Dangerous Man - Lawrence After Arabia*. Denholm Elliott and Rita Tushingham co-star in *Sunday Pursuit*, a love story directed by Mai Zetterling.

The Cloning of Joanna May, a dramatised version of Fay Weldon's novel, stars Patricia Hodge and Brian Cox and, later in the season, an original Fay Weldon drama, *Growing Rich*, features Martin Kemp, of the pop group Spandau Ballet, as the devil.

Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie return as Jeeves and Wooster, and John Alderton and Pauline Collins feature in a new series of *Forever Green*. Other comedy programmes will include *El CID*, with John Bird, and *Men Behaving Badly*, a situation comedy with Harry Enfield as a workaholic womaniser.

Television, page 23

Pindown social worker loses job

A THIRD senior officer in Staffordshire's social services department at the time of the "pindown" scandal has lost her job.

Elizabeth Brennan, a principal child protection officer, has had her services terminated from November 30 "in the interests of the efficient discharge of the council's functions". Two deputy directors of the department have already had their contracts terminated.

The county council was criticised this year after an enquiry into the use in Staffordshire children's homes of the pindown regime, under which children were kept in solitary confinement.

Police pay out

Thames Valley police agreed in an out-of-court settlement to pay £2,000 compensation to each of 11 hunt saboteurs who claimed they had been wrongfully arrested.

Disease alert

A woman aged 41 has died at Walton hospital, Liverpool, after contracting legionnaires' disease. Other patients at the hospital are being monitored.

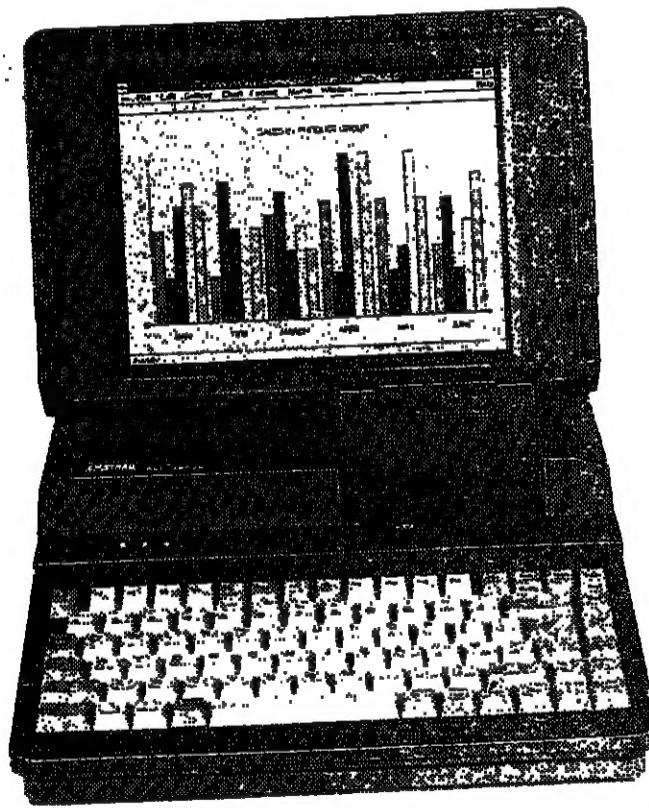
Photos seized

Customs officers at Heathrow have seized nude photographs of the American actress Kim Basinger that were being sent to *Penthouse* magazine.

Stolen car death

A man died when the stolen car he was driving crashed in Norwood, southeast London, early yesterday, police said.

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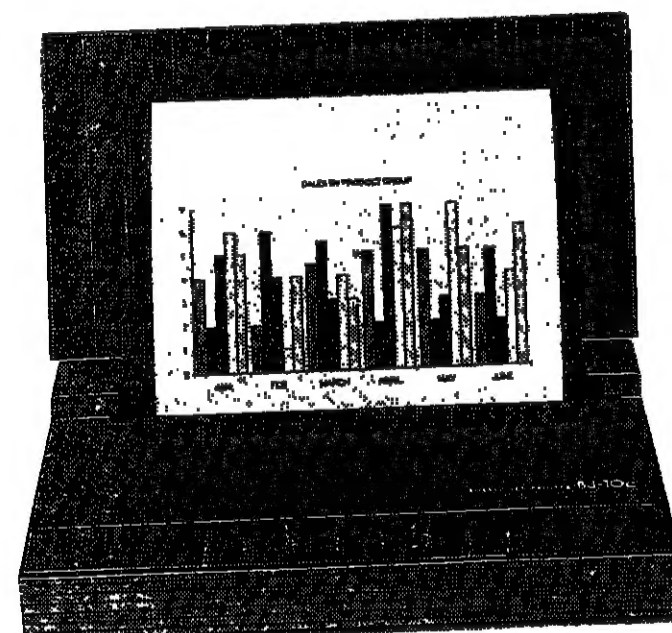
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Thatcher demands a referendum on single currency

MARGARET Thatcher called yesterday for a referendum on a single currency in the event of the main political parties ever agreeing to abandon the pound sterling.

In a passionate speech during the first day of the two-day Commons debate on Europe, she backed the move because, she said, the electorate would have no choice on the issue in a general election. The former prime minister told MPs: "I have come to the conclusion we should let the people speak."

The debate was opened by John Major, who warned members of the European Community about possible misconceptions some of them may have.

Mr Major said that some Community members believed that Britain would argue hard against many of the Maastricht proposals, object to them and protest, but that Britain would sign up to whatever on offer at the eleventh hour. "I urge them not to make that misjudgement."

The government wanted to reach an agreement at Maastricht and was negotiating for one. There was still some way to go and he hoped that the negotiations would be successful. "But it may be that a deal is genuinely unobtainable."

"If we do not reach an agreement, it will not be a catastrophe for the Community, but it will be a setback. So it must not be through misunderstanding, or misjudgement, or certainly not through bad faith."

He outlined the advantages to Britain of belonging to the EC and said: "There are, in truth, only three ways of dealing with the Community. We can leave it and no doubt we would survive. But we would be diminished in influence and in prosperity. Or we can stay in grudgingly, in which case others will lead it. Or

John Major and Margaret Thatcher collided in the Europe debate: she is seeking a referendum on monetary union, he is firmly opposed

we can play a leading role in it. That is the right policy. It does not mean accepting every idea that is marketed with a European label. It does mean trying to build the sort of Europe we believe in."

The texts on monetary and political union produced earlier in the year and rejected by Britain had caused much alarm.

Mr Major added: "The treaty now before us envisages the realisation of economic and monetary union through the creation of a single European currency to replace the historic currencies and a European bank to manage monetary policy."

In stage one, the single market and the single financial area would be completed. The second stage proposed a European monetary institute, essentially the present meeting of European central bankers under another name. Its task would be to strengthen co-operation and promote the co-ordination of monetary policy. In stage two, the ecu would be developed and hardened. During that period monetary policy would remain in the hands of member states.

The text envisaged that before the end of 1996 member states would take stock, in Ecufin and at the European Council, and reach a decision on whether to move to the final stage of economic and monetary union.

A crucial element would be the economic convergence of member states. Britain was the first to argue that convergence was vital before monetary union could become a possibility.

The last text set out convergence criteria on inflation, interest rates and successful membership of the narrow band of the exchange-rate mechanism and the avoidance of excessive budget deficits.

The council of ministers would decide who had met the conditions and the European council would decide unanimously whether or not the conditions were right for a move to stage three. "We believe that there should be at least eight member states ready to move to stage three before that step could be taken."

The prime minister added: "Our insistence that there should be no imposition of a single currency is well known: by that we mean that we cannot commit ourselves now to entry at a later date as a result of the treaty."

"We are therefore insisting that there must be provision in the treaty giving us the right quite separately from any European Council decision to decide for ourselves whether or not to move to stage three. That decision can only be taken by this House."

"This means that even if the requisite majority of member states decide to embrace a full economic and monetary union with a single currency and a single central bank, Britain will not be obliged to do so. Whether to join, not just when to join, will be matters of separate decision by government and Parliament. Nothing in any treaty I sign will bind us now to the decision we must take then."

"Nothing in the treaty I sign now will bind us then because at this stage we cannot know what the circumstances then will be and whether it will be in the economic interests of this country to take part."

Moving to areas where Britain parted company from other members on stage three, Mr Major said that the Dutch draft treaty provided the Ecufin council with sanctions to require members to reduce their budget deficits. Britain believed that there was no better sanction than the market.

Some MPs believed that the creation of a single currency and a European central bank should be blocked now. They believed that if it was not, the pressures on Britain to join later would be irresistible. Technically Britain could block the adoption of an economic and monetary union treaty in its present form—as an amendment to the Treaty of Rome. What it could not do was prevent some or all other members making a separate treaty outside the Rome treaty.

"Those who believe that they would not do so are in my view mistaken, as mistaken as those who said that without Britain the original European Community would never happen, or that if it did happen it would amount to nothing."

"I fear I do not agree with those members who take that view. I believe that they are wrong and potentially damagingly wrong for the long-term interests of this country."

"I do not therefore believe it would be right to block the treaty on Ecufin provided that it contains conditions which could make such a union a success. Nor is it necessary to do so to safeguard our own interests. For the text gives this country the crucial provision we need which means that we can decide at a



Major: looks forward to successful negotiations

time of our own choosing whether to join or not.

"If the economic convergence conditions set out in the draft treaty are not met, we would certainly not wish to be part of an economic and monetary union with a single currency. But if they are met, our successors may wish to take a different view. A single currency could be the means of safeguarding anti-inflationary policies for the

whole of the Community. That would be a great prize. But there would be a price to pay."

"The price is that it would take from national governments the control of monetary policy. That would be a very significant political and economic step for this country to take. We cannot take that step now."

"But nor should we exclude it. What we have in front of us is not what has been described as

an opt-out clause. It is a clause we have secured enabling us to opt in, if we wish, when we wish and in conditions we judge to be right. We should keep open that option and not foreclose it at this time."

Turning to political union, Mr Major said that for many Community partners, the definitions were not as important as for Britain.

Britain was not prepared to accept wholesale changes in the nature of the Community which would lead it towards an unacceptable dominance over our national life. To most people in this country, the notion of a federal Europe led over time to a European government and parliament with full legislative powers, to which national governments and parliaments would be subordinate.

"I do not believe that is a road down which the country would wish to go. We will not therefore accept a treaty which describes the Community as having a federal vocation. Such a Community will not succeed."

On foreign policy co-operation, he said: "In most areas, it would be in our interest to work for joint action, but we cannot allow that search for joint action to inhibit our right to take separate national decisions essential for the pursuit of our foreign policy."

He said that the government saw great difficulties in the proposal that majority voting should be used for implementing decisions. That seemed to be a recipe for middle and confusion.

On defence, he said that Britain could not accept a situation where the Community effectively set up a competing structure with Nato and the Western European Union.

He called for the European parliament to have a greater role in auditing the expenditure of the Community and to approve the appointment of the Commission. "There is a tendency in the Community to want to legislate for everything. That tendency must be curbed."

There must be limits on the areas where Community law applied. "Whether a town passes goes to the east or to the west has nothing whatsoever to do with cross-frontier pollution or competition policy or any other aspect of the single market. Those are issues which should rightly be settled at national level."

"For an agreement to be reached at Maastricht there will have to be give and take on all sides."

The Community had been the motor force for Europe's postwar development. The aim, from the beginning, had been to achieve the far-reaching goals of democracy, prosperity and stability in Europe by down-to-earth means of a single market in goods and service.

The Community was still the motor force for Europe's development, but there was more at stake in Maastricht than the legal text. Then, they would shape the future of the Community in ways that accommodated the wider European changes.

They could now plan for a Community stretching north to the Baltic and east to the Urals, embracing the free market principles at the heart of the Treaty of Rome. That could not only guarantee prosperity but would also underpin democracy, ending centuries of mistrust, suspicion and war. "It would secure a lasting peace across the whole of our continent. I believe it is a Europe worth building, worth making sacrifices for. That is the Europe for which I shall be arguing at Maastricht."

Nell Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, said that the question was whether Britain would be dragged along in the wake of the changes or be the driving force for change. It was essential that our country took a lead. The people knew that that was the only way to exercise decisive influence.

The need for an active and positive approach to changing policy was well understood by governments in the rest of the

Community. "They recognise the reality of the economic interdependence which now exists and which will be intensified by completion of the single market and as a result are determined to build on that interdependence by moving towards economic and monetary union. They are clear about their objectives. They know what they want. As so often in the past, our government is stuck in defensive mud."

It was not good enough for Britain to have a government playing for a draw and it had become clear from Mr Major's speech that that was precisely his aim. The government must stop trying to persuade itself or the country that there was some sort of semi-detached arrangement that could be made, that would serve Britain's best interests. There was no such arrangement.

Even before there was an immediate prospect of monetary union, it had to be recognised how vulnerable Britain was if the government's strategy was to avoid commitment to the processes under way in the Community. If the British government continued, as a matter of policy, to stand apart from those processes, would inward investors wanting access to the Community market, think of locating in Britain?

Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) asked whether Mr Kinnock could give an example of an important issue on which, since 1970, he had not changed his mind.

Mr Kinnock: Yes. He and I came in on the same day. I formed the view then that he was a jerk. I still have that view.

The remark led to several minutes of uproar and Conservative protest. Mr Kinnock said that if he had offended, he withdrew any offence.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, asked if Mr Kinnock would be prepared to go to Maastricht and make an irrevocable commitment to a single currency.

Mr Kinnock replied that his commitment to seeing that the Commons had a proper decision to make in any stage of development of the EC was at



Kinnock: Britain must not play for a draw

least equal to Mr Lamont's. There was no question of any Community government not referring to its parliament for a mandate before entering monetary union, the opt-out clause simply codified what would happen in any case.

"But if that clause was taken to be a definition of this government's position and repeatedly referred to as an escape route, then it would fundamentally undermine confidence in the government's commitment to the European process. It would be a deterrent to investment, a disincentive to industrial development."

Mr Kinnock said that the government should be negotiating for location of the European monetary institute and a subsequent central bank in London, but had never even raised the question.

The true definition of convergence was of crucial importance to monetary union. Monetary union and the single currency could work successfully only if there was convergence of the real economy which included growth and employment as well

Continued on facing page

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Tebbit takes over the campaign

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Tebbit yesterday put himself at the head of the Conservative campaign for a referendum on the future of the European Community, an issue on which the Commons is to be decided a vote when the debate ends tonight.

MPs from all three main parties tabled amendments for the debate calling for a referendum before the economic and political union treaties to be discussed at Maastricht are adopted.

However, the question was covered neither in the government motion nor the official Labour amendment, the only one selected by the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, for a division.

Fourteen Tory MPs headed by Mr Tebbit backed a referendum amendment despite John Major's clear rejection of it this week. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, yesterday renewed his call for a referendum and his party's amendment makes a call for one in its reference to the need for the real voice of the people to be heard. Leaving Labour MPs backed an amendment by Tony Benn, the former cabinet minister, saying that none of the constitutional changes

should come into effect until they have been endorsed in a referendum.

The government motion invites the House to endorse its "constructive negotiating approach" running up to Maastricht, saying that it is in Britain's interests to be at the heart of Europe shaping its future, and calls for an agreement that avoids a federal outcome, enables the British Parliament to decide at a later date whether to adopt a single currency, restricts the extension of Community competences to those areas that cannot be handled better, nationally, and increases the accountability of the European Commission.

The Labour amendment attacks the government's negotiating approach which it says has been determined by its preoccupation with divisions in the Tory party, supports the social charter, calls for extension of majority voting to social and environmental matters, and urges policies for high levels of employment, growth and balanced regional development necessary to achieve real economic convergence in three years leading to economic union and a single currency.

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FEELING SICK ABOUT THE HEALTH SERVICE AND PARIAH SMOKERS... BOOM TIME FOR BELLRINGERS... MORALS AND HYPOCRISY IN AMERICA

MICHAEL POWELL

Long love affair with NHS damaged by diagnosis of decline

Tony Dawe reports on a survey of attitudes that confirms health as the central issue in the coming election

A MARKED increase in dissatisfaction with the health service is the most dramatic finding of the latest survey of *British Social Attitudes* published today, emphasising that the NHS will be the central issue in the next general election.

The survey, acknowledged as a comprehensive guide to changing values, reports that almost half the nation is quite or very dissatisfied with the running of the NHS, compared with only a quarter when the survey began eight years ago.

The long wait many endure for operations or to see a consultant attract the brunt of the criticism, but a majority want to see an improvement in all aspects of hospital services. Respondents want more nurses, more doctors, more efficient casualty departments and better buildings. Many want a better service when attending out-patient

clinics, and a third believe that the quality of medical treatment in hospitals needs improvement.

"This is a huge rise in dissatisfaction and explains why the Labour party has been concentrating on the state of the health service," Roger Jowell, director of Social and Community Planning Research, which conducted the survey, said. "But it shows the Tories have also been doing their research, for a lot of the criticisms are addressed in the citizen's charter on health. If it works and is convincing, then it will clearly find favour with the electorate."

In contrast with views of the nation's hospitals, only a quarter of those interviewed called for an improved deal from their GPs.

The survey poses the question that growing dissatisfaction with the NHS might eventually reduce public allegiance to the service and diminish resistance to future privatisation policies, but it can find no proof for such a thesis.

Almost all the 3,000 people interviewed for the 1991-2 edition of the survey insist

that health care should definitely be the government's responsibility and a majority want more spent on it, even if it means higher taxes.

As many as 38 per cent said they would like to see "much more" government spending on health, a higher priority than for any other service. Pensions and education were the two other areas to receive significant support for much more money.

When the survey broke down its findings into party allegiances it discovered that, while the majority of Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters favour increased spending and higher taxes, only 42 per cent of Conservative voters agreed. While concern about the NHS has increased among all social groups, it remains less prevalent among Conservative voters.

However, the better-off are more critical of the service than elderly and working-class people, perhaps, suggest the authors of the survey, because of a difference in expectations. The survey finds that support for an improved NHS is strong, even among those who can afford private medicine.

"There is very little demand for exit from the NHS, even from those for whom departure to the private sector is a realistic option," it says. It points out that the 40-year tradition of the state as the dominant agency in welfare provision has been challenged during the 1980s by cuts, by the privatisation of ancillary services and by demands for greater financial accountability.

It concludes, however, that far from seeing a dwindling of support for health and welfare spending, the decade has seen the strengthening of public backing for a centralised, tax-financed health service.

British Social Attitudes, 8th report (Dartmouth Publishing Company, £19.95)

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As deadly as the male: Tina Parker offers a softer option to some of the heavyweight hardmen auditioning for the part of the executioner in *Turandot* at the Royal Opera House yesterday (Joe Joseph writes). The advert in *The Stage* ("preferably 16 stone or over, bodybuilders would be suitable") did invite both men and women, since the Royal Opera House is an equal opportunities employer, but nobody was really

expecting Ms Parker when she walked into Covent Garden. Even she was a bit jolted. "I only discovered today that the executioner has to go topless," she said. "They were calling for women and they were calling for heavyweight people. Weight has always been my problem, so I thought why not have a go, although I would be more interested in comedy." Ms Parker was the only woman among the 21

giants who auditioned for the role. The opera will be staged at Wembley Arena from December 29 as a Covent Garden co-production with the impresario Raymond Gubbay. It is the first time Mr Gubbay has tried opera. He decided that while bringing it to a wider audience might be laudable, the *Nazim Dorna* aria from *Turandot* would fill seats. Ms Parker? She made it to the final nine. They swished swords and

menaced on demand. All, bar our heroine, stripped to the waist, at which point there was no contest for the mighty muscles of Mr Arnold, a Welshman from Dyfed who runs a health club, and who will become the first Covent Garden star with "Terry" tattooed on his forearm. Peter Reid, complete with 50-inch chest - "I'm a bodybuilder by hobby and an Oxford traffic policeman by profession" - is his understudy.

Ancient art has pulling power

Louise Hidalgo reports on the keenness and camaraderie of church bellringers

As bells across the country sounded to celebrate the release of Terry Waite, churches must have blessed the loyal band of bellringers who sustain one of Britain's oldest traditions.

In parish churches up and down the country, about 45,000 people each week practise their bellringing skills. This week many helped to sound the celebratory peal that rang out from about 500 churches in London alone to welcome Mr Waite's return.

At St Bride's, however, the church which more than any has become associated with concern for the hostages, there was no rush to gather together a band of campanologists when confirmation of the release of Terry Waite and Thomas Sutherland came through on Monday. Shortly after 3.30pm, Cannon John Oates simply switched on the tape and a pre-recorded peal announced the news along Fleet Street and beyond. The church's bells, once among London's finest, were destroyed during the second world war.

Traditionalists such as the 1,000 members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the oldest and most famous ringing society, deprecate the use of church bell recordings. The society, which provides ringers for Westminster Abbey and St Paul's, would like to see the bells restored to St Bride's.

Cannon Oates is pragmatic. He cites the cost - about £150,000 - and the convenience of not relying on the goodwill and availability of bellringing volunteers.

Meanwhile, the art of bell ringing is enjoying a modest resurgence. About a third of Britain's churches boast a ring of bells, and more are overhauling their old ones or installing new.

The Central Council of Bellringing, which has about 70 amateur groups among its members, estimates that 10 per cent more people count bellringing among their pastimes than did a decade ago.

"There are bellringers as young as ten and others well into their eighties," Cyril Watten, the secretary, says. The growing band of bellringers, which counts among its number Baroness Cox, a deputy speaker in the House of Lords, breeds a form of freemasonry, according to Jacqueline King, of the Ladies' Guild, who has been ringing in her local church in Chepstow, Gwent, for the past 46 years.

"Every diocese has its own fraternity of bellringers and you know, as a ringer, that if you enter a church tower anywhere in the country you will be warmly welcomed."

Victorian virtues make comeback

IF SHE had been around this week, Queen Victoria would have approved of the morals of an America which seems to be reverting to a protective attitude towards women that it abandoned with gaslights and the horse and carriage.

Bob Kerrey, a Democratic contender for the presidency, is under attack thanks to privately telling a joke about lesbians. The American Civil Liberties Union, a body which defends free speech, has denounced its Florida branch for opposing a law banning dirty jokes in the work place. Shipyard workers have been ordered to stop making vulgar remarks which might be heard

America is turning to history to save women from men, writes Charles Bremner in New York

by women. The Florida union branch took the side of the workers, but, says the union in New York, the sanctity of women is more important than free speech.

Florida is, of course, also playing host to the trial of William Smith, an event which has turned into a showcase for the new morality. The Kennedy lawyers are basing their defence on the argument that their client was the victim of the machinations of a shameless

hussy. The forces of feminism are arrayed behind the prosecution argument that the woman was the innocent victim who naively accepted the invitation of a brutal bouncer to come up for a tour of his etchings.

The Victorians would have called it unwanted seduction: now it is called "date rape", a phenomenon which has become something of a national obsession. Yesterday, a woman student at Harvard brought abomination on herself for pointing out that the politically correct doctrine casts women as delicate creatures just like the Victorians did. "Every time one Henry James character seizes the

hand of another Henry James character, someone is calling it rape," said Katie Roiphe, whose anathema was voiced on the pages of *The New York Times*.

She has a point. The American College Health Association now advises its female students to "communicate your limits clearly. If someone starts to offend you, tell them firmly and early," reminiscent of an 1853 manners guide. And Pennsylvania state university removed a print of Goya's *Maja* from a lecture room because the reclining nude, which last offended in the 19th century, was deemed to constitute sexual harassment.

Inflation ranks as main foe

The government's economic policy receives a vote of confidence in the survey, with most people saying that keeping down inflation rather than unemployment is the top priority. When the survey began in 1983, only one in four rated inflation as the most important problem.

The self-employed, pensioners and Conservatives were the most likely to name inflation as the top priority. The jobless, and most supporters of the other main parties, picked unemployment.



Nuclear fears

There is mounting concern over threats to the environment, and about nuclear power. Half the public believe that damage to the environment will be the biggest single problem facing Europe within the next 20 years. Three out of four fear that nuclear power stations pose serious risks.

Army pull-out

Most people favour the reunification of Ireland and the withdrawal of British troops, although this would lead to more bloodshed in the short-term. In Northern Ireland, only one in four favours reunification and one in three backs troop withdrawals, most of them Roman Catholics.

Affairs 'wrong'

Extra-marital sex continues to earn mass disapproval, with 85 per cent saying it is always or mostly wrong. A small or mostly wrong that sex before marriage is rarely or never wrong. There is a slight increase this year in the number saying that homosexual relations are always or mostly wrong.

Smokers get up nation's nose

SMOKERS have become the new pariahs of British society, according to the latest *Social Attitudes* survey, which reports widespread support for smoking bans in public places and even for active government discrimination against those indulging in the habit.

A majority believe that "most people look down on smokers" and support much higher taxes on cigarettes. Three out of four say that life insurance premiums for smokers should be increased and one out of four is in favour of NHS hospitals giving smokers low priority for heart or lung operations.

A significant majority want smoking banned in hospitals, cinemas and restaurants, and smoking bans in the workplace are also gaining favour, with a third supporting them. The pub seems to be the only public place where smoking is still largely acceptable.

Roger Jowell, director of Social and Community Planning Research, which carried out the survey, said: "We were surprised by the intensity of people's censoriousness about smoking."

The reasons are twofold: a clearer perception that other people's cigarette smoke can damage you and the fact that smokers are in a minority. The survey asked: "Suppose a non-smoker lives or works closely with a heavy smoker, how risky is it for the non-smoker?" Three out of four regarded the health risk as serious with one out of four



Lighting up: more young women are smoking

saying that it was very serious. For the first time, the survey has discovered that former smokers outnumber smokers: 42 per cent have never smoked, 28 per cent are ex-smokers and only 27 per cent smoke. Middle-aged men are the heaviest smokers but there is a marked upward trend among women aged 18 to 34.

The survey suggests that smoking may soon become more prevalent among women in Britain than men. It also finds, however, that most smokers say they are likely to try to give up within the next couple of years.

The survey concludes: "As smoking becomes less common and people become more aware of the hazards of passive smoke, attitudes towards smoking may continue to harden and this may help the reluctant smoker to finally give up."

On the one hand, we like civil liberties...

BRITAIN is a nation of "fainthearted libertarians", *British Social Attitudes* concludes after its first study of our views on civil liberties.

On the one hand, we support more open government, are tolerant of public protest meetings, even those staged by revolutionaries, and are wary of giving the police more intrusive powers. On the other hand, a majority believe the government should have the power to stop publication of leaked defence plans and welcome the installation of video cameras in public places to deter hooligans and identify erring motorists.

The ambivalence is reflected by our views on com-

pulsory identity cards, with people evenly split for and against their introduction and one in five having no opinion either way. The survey suggests that our lack of concern about certain rights and freedoms might leave civil libertarians despondent.

We do possess some clear views, however, seeing civil servants as servants of the public rather than servants of a government. Many believe that the administration of justice is affected by a person's colour and economic circumstances. Fewer than one in ten favours relaxing immigration controls. Two out of three are against an unreserved welcome for political refugees.

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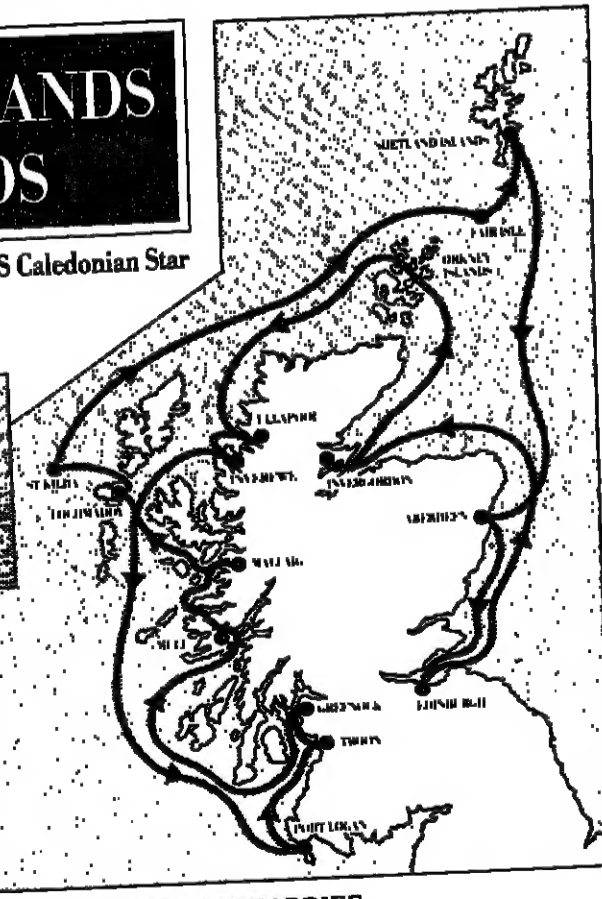
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Delors gives MEPs mocking account of Britain's stance

From MICHAEL BINYON IN STRASBOURG

ONLY hours before the Commons debate on Europe, Jacques Delors, the European Commission's president, yesterday delivered a comprehensive rebuff to the British vision of Europe.

With withering sarcasm, he mocked the British concept of a community built solely on intergovernmental co-operation, saying this had never worked in the past and would not work in the future. He accused Britain of betraying the vision of the community's founding fathers, and remarked bitterly that the Maastricht treaties on political and monetary union might as well drop all references to federalism: they were now so emasculated that virtually no trace of the original federal goal remained in them.

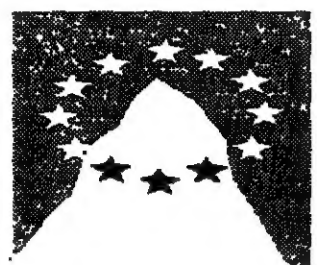
Addressing the European parliament in its final debate on the two treaties before the Maastricht summit, M Delors asked whether it was possible to build a political union treaty solely on the basis of a free exchange zone and a few compensations for poorer countries. "The commission's reply is absolutely not, that is not possible."

Where, he asked, was the economic and social cohesion, the pillars of the community which, he insisted, were indispensable. "There is no example of a grouping of nations that has survived on the basis of intergovernmental co-operation," he said. "My fear is that in concentrating on the intergovernmental aspects of the treaty, because of precedent and the deals struck behind politicians' backs by bureaucrats, intergovernmental arrangements will pollute the community and in fact cause it to slip back."

He gave a passionate defence of a community role in

social and industrial policy — issues anathema to Britain, which insists that Brussels has no role in these fields. He said that if the balance could not be maintained in the community's structures, the whole enterprise would fail. Despite the adoption of the social charter by 11 of the 12 EC members — Britain excepted — not a single piece of significant legislation had followed from it.

He acknowledged that a compromise had been reached



COUNTDOWN TO MAASTRICHT

on a common foreign and security policy, and that majority voting would apply only to its implementation, not its formation — a point that Britain has just conceded. But he made it clear he believed that this was only a first step, and that he has not given up hope of a fully integrated political union.

"The community method remains, even if it cannot be applied immediately to foreign policy and justice and security issues," it remained "the guarantee of respect for the sovereignty of member states and the guarantee of efficiency."

In an emotional summing-up, reflecting the disappointment he feels over the compromises proposed for Maastricht, he said: "One should

not play games with a great hope. One must not cheat when faced with the huge challenges of today's world."

To underline his contempt of these compromises, M Delors quoted the article suggested on common foreign policy — "the council believes that, as a general rule, the methods of achieving common action will be adopted by a qualified majority". What did this mean, he asked? Countries would discuss a problem, they would not agree but to start with they would discuss procedure. Would they in the end vote by qualified majority or not?

"But who can believe for a moment that the countries would not fight about procedure precisely because of their differences and to defend their points of view? Believe me, such a text was unworkable or would cause paralysis," M Delors' powerful speech appeared to be as much a warning to Britain that the more federalist members of the community and the commission were becoming increasingly disillusioned by the Dutch presidency's attempts to accommodate British objections to the treaties.

His cri de coeur reflects not only his personal frustration but also a warning that too much watering down of the texts could produce a counter reaction which could lead the federal enthusiasts to reject the whole package at Maastricht. His speech may cause some distress among his fellow commissioners, especially those who are keen to accommodate Britain and smooth John Major's path before Maastricht. The commission president clearly appeared yesterday to be rejecting compromise.

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Debris from old skirmishes litters Maastricht battlefield

From GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE EC Maastricht summit is still just under three weeks away but the agenda is already looking like one of the most overloaded in the community's history.

At the two-day meeting on December 9 and 10, EC leaders must clinch deals which will allow them to sign a treaty on political and monetary union shortly afterwards. They will also discuss the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and the

19-state common market with nations of the European Free Trade Association.

Some issues on political and monetary union have already exhausted the skills of the lower-level negotiators and could extend or even derail the summit. The worst snags in the treaty negotiations are as follows:

□ **Euro "opt-out" clause:** the draft treaty allows any state to pull out of single currency plans within six months after an EC summit has decided

that a group of 6-8 states can move to the final stage of monetary union. Denmark wants another parliamentary vote at that final stage. Britain is signalling that the treaty wording need not refer specifically to the British parliament but only to the government.

□ **Economic and social cohesion:** this refers to the request from the poorest southern EC states for more money from their richer northern neighbours. Only Spain is now insisting that new funds should be guaranteed by the treaty itself and its ministers are threatening to veto the treaty unless they obtain specific promises.

□ **Majority voting and extensions of EC power:** Britain agreed in principle to give the European parliament a limited power of veto and a reunified Germany more seats. But Britain wants parliamentary veto possible on very few subjects and very little increase in majority voting in ministerial councils.

□ **Foreign and defence policy:** Britain is edging towards accepting the idea of declaring EC "joint action" in defined areas, but is insisting on confining majority voting to details of policy implementation. In the last ten days, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has stopped ruling out majority voting totally, but wants an escape clause in the treaty to protect nations whose vital interests are threatened by joint policy. It now looks as though France will bow to the majority and accept that the defence policies of the EC and Nato should be complementary.

□ **Home Office issues:** Britain wants crime-fighting, court liaison and immigration control decided by co-operation between governments. Germany wants all these policies progressively taken out of its hands by the EC.

□ **Social charter:** Negotiation has stopped on this since Britain is in a minority of one in insisting that the EC should have no new powers and both sides are waiting for the other to back down.

□ **The F-word and review clauses:** Britain will probably succeed in removing the "federal goal" inscribed at the start and end of the present draft treaty, but may not succeed in returning to the time-honoured aim of the "ever closer union of peoples". Some pro-federal governments will try to write provisions for a new treaty conference in 1996 dropping hints about further federalism.

Serbs' advance tests political will of Western Europe



Support troops: Yugoslav army reservists helping an exhausted old man yesterday in Vukovar. He had been hiding in a cellar for three months in the besieged Croatian town, which fell to federal forces on Sunday

Vukovar's fall fills Zagreb bars

SINCE the fall of Vukovar last Sunday, the bars of Zagreb have been even more crowded than usual with disconsolate drinkers, but it is debatable whether the quantities of plum brandy being consumed are to fuel defiance or quell despair. Two themes dominate the conversation: the iniquity of Serbs and the inefficiency of the Croatian government.

"Everyone is thinking about Vukovar, talking Vukovar," said Budimir Solic, an unshaven off-duty guardman huddled in the old town's Blue Cafe. "But what does our government say? Nothing."

The defeat of the Danube town, dubbed "our Stalingrad" by the Croats for its three-month resistance, has increased the difficulties of the Zagreb government. Having extracted maximum sympathy value from the

Croatia's rulers are losing the battle for the hearts of the drinking classes. Anne McElvoy reports from Zagreb

plight of the town during the siege, it has failed to find an appropriate reaction to its loss, floundering about to find alternative, less galling phrases for defeat, as if evasion could comfort a nation painfully aware that it is on the losing side as the Serb-led army gobbles up its territory.

In the depressing days since Sunday, Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, has not been seen in public. It would not have been difficult to turn Vukovar's fate to political advantage: its defeat was, after all, scarcely an honourable victory for the army, since it took three months to achieve despite vast military superiority. But Dr Tudjman said nothing.

Until now, the government has profited in terms of stability from the war. The opposition has been quiet, and tight control of the media has done the rest in immobilising dissent.

But the ultra-right Party of Rights has been quick to seize the political offensive this week. The party sees the fate of Vukovar as a signal of the government's lack of effectiveness and has even suggested that Zagreb was prepared to sacrifice the city with an eye to future territorial swaps with Serbia.

Ante Džapic, deputy leader of the party's militia, called yesterday for fresh elections, claiming that the government had forfeited the trust of the Croat people

and that its defensive strategy was failing. Demanding an all-out offensive, he said: "We must take the war to the enemy, to Serbia. When there are hundreds of shells falling on Belgrade, we will see how cowardly they really are."

That is the bellicose opposition. But there is also a swell of dissatisfaction from the war-weary, who believe they were led into the conflict by an irresponsible and ill-prepared government.

Croatia still has a will to fight, but Zdravko Tomac, the deputy prime minister, courageously broke the ranks of the silently embittered week by admitting what a drained population already knows: "We failed to foresee this war. We hoped that independence could be reached by negotiation or maybe a limited defensive military action. We were wrong."

Belgrade forces set sights on Vinkovci

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the fall of Vukovar, the Yugoslav federal forces have turned their attention to another key Croatian stronghold, the city of Vinkovci. The battle for Vinkovci will pose the next great challenge, not only for the survival of Croatia but also for the credibility of Western Europe.

The protracted defence of Vukovar had as much to do with federal Yugoslav tactical ineptitude as it had to do with the courage of the Croat fighters. The Serb-dominated army, however, succeeded in achieving its goal without suffering heavy casualties, because it never attempted to mount a large-scale infantry attack.

The battle for Vukovar, to the southwest, is likely to follow a similar pattern. But here, the federal army could find itself embroiled in a more bloody siege.

With the capture of Vukovar, the Serb-dominated forces control a slice of eastern Croatia along the boundary formed by the river Danube between Serbia and Croatia. Serb nationalists want to make Vukovar the capital of a greater Serbian region, and Vinkovci will be the next stepping stone in the overall strategy to clear a swathe of land west of the Danube.

The challenge to Western Europe is clear. Unable and unwilling to intervene militarily up to now, European governments have watched as Vukovar was destroyed. Their reluctance to become involved will reassure the federal army. When they turn their tanks towards Vinkovci, they will be able to do so with relative impunity.

Vinkovci, however, is better defended. The city has endured some bombing in the five-month conflict but while the Yugoslav army has focused its attention on Vukovar, the inhabitants of Vinkovci have been preparing for a long siege.

Jonathan Eyal, director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute in London, said they have had time to build up their supplies. Eighty per cent of the 90,000 population in Vinkovci are Croats, with only 13 per cent Serbs. Resistance to a siege will be fierce. "I don't think Vinkovci is doomed," he said.

The federal army, on the other hand, has only one real fear — military intervention by Europe. But if Europe continues its policy of "no peacekeeping, only peacekeeping", the Yugoslav army can afford to take its time in adding Vinkovci to its list of victories.

Cresson survives in trying times

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

SAY what you like about Edith Cresson, the French prime minister is a fighter, never more impressive than with her back against the wall.

It was fitting, then, that President Mitterrand, who thrust her into the firing line six months ago, should yesterday award her the Grand Croix de l'Ordre National du Mérite in a ceremony at the Elysée Palace. The medal is routinely awarded to any prime minister who survives



six months in office, a term which, in living memory, was by no means assured. But M Mitterrand went out of his way to emphasise Mme Cresson's special qualifications, giving a glowing endorsement of the qualities which have so far failed to win over the opinion of many voters.

"The most important reason for this award is the quality of what she has achieved in the past six months," M Mitterrand told a select audience. "Confronted with a situation that very few of her predecessors had to deal with, she

has tackled each new problem in a calm and determined fashion... and I believe that only Edith Cresson could have ensured that things were working so well."

For all the opinion polls making it clear that a vast majority of the French think otherwise — Mme Cresson's popularity rating has slumped to barely 25 per cent — the Elysée has never wavered, publicly at least, in support of the prime minister. It is fair to observe, however, that not all the Socialist notables are as supportive as their leader of this aggressive approach to governing the country. Among the audience at Mme Cresson's investiture were Pierre Joxe, the defence minister, and Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister, who both have their eyes on the Matignon: other cabinet worthies, such as Laurent Fabius, the former prime minister and present leader of the National Assembly, cannot be counted out of the running if Mme Cresson were to become too much of a political liability.

Nobody is more aware of this than Mme Cresson. To her credit, she maintains a brave and cheerful public face most of the time, robustly soaking up opposition punishment in the National Assembly. How long the support of the Elysée can be counted on is debatable: Mme Cresson's unpopularity has begun to spill over on to the president, and if there is one thing M Mitterrand worries about, it is his place in the history books.

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Shevardnadze to champion cause of peace

From OLIVER WATERS IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze, returned reluctantly to shaping Soviet foreign policy, said yesterday he wanted to take his place on the barricades to preserve world peace. Commenting on his appointment by President Gorbachev, he told French Antenne 2 television that the danger of a return to totalitarianism in what he referred to as "the former Soviet Union" was even greater than it had been before the August coup.

"The threat exists firstly because the people who supported the totalitarian system still exist but also because of the aggravation of social conditions," he said. He was quoted by Interfax, the independent Soviet news agency, as saying: "In these conditions, I could not just watch from the sidelines. We must take our places on the barricades to save peace, because an unstable Soviet Union is the biggest threat to peace for the whole planet."

In another interview, with the daily *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, Mr Shevardnadze, a Georgian aged 63, was in equally sombre mood. "There is no reason for congratulations, or commiseration," he said. "The moment has come when the fate is being decided not just of our country, but of peace on our planet."

Mr Shevardnadze resigned last December in protest at the growing power of hardliners in Mr Gorbachev's government. His return was welcomed in the West, which credits him with a key role in ending the Cold War.

The job of Soviet foreign minister is scarcely an easy one. The Soviet Union, al-

though still the world's second nuclear power, has continued to lose its authority among developing countries since December, and its economic and political difficulties have damaged its prestige. Furthermore, the 12 republican governments are keen to establish some form of independent foreign policy. Indeed, the Russian Federation has begun to flex its muscles on such questions as the Afghan civil war and relations with Japan and America.

Interfax said Mr Shevardnadze gave his first priority as a visit to the republican capitals to discuss their new relationship with the centre. His international and domestic prestige will certainly strengthen the centre's hand.

Aleksandr Galkin, of the Political Forecasting Institute, said: "The process of division of functions between the [Soviet] Union and republican organs is not yet finished. There are many question marks."

"It is natural that the appearance of such a major personality as Shevardnadze should sharply strengthen the position of the Union foreign ministry. Shevardnadze is not only a powerful figure in international affairs but is also pretty influential in internal politics."

Vitali Churkin, appointed by Mr Shevardnadze last November as head of the information department of the foreign ministry, now renamed the Ministry of Foreign Relations, said the appointment would improve morale. "He is very good at motivating people, which is something we need very much," he said. "He is a charismatic diplomat who inspires people."

The State Council, the leading Soviet organ since the coup, last week approved plans put forward by Boris Pankin, the outgoing foreign minister, to reorganise the ministry. Staff will be cut by a third, to about 2,600, by the end of the year. Several embassies and consulates will close and trade missions will be absorbed into embassies. The ministry will concentrate more on trade and economic matters. (Reuters)



Shevardnadze: a diplomat who inspires people

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WARSAW NOTEBOOK by Roger Boyes

Debts hold an army captive

The Polish army, once a key part of a feared Warsaw Pact force, is teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. Soldiers are on near-starvation rations — their food allowance is 60p a day — aircraft are grounded for lack of fuel, defence suppliers are clamouring for payment and tactical training has been suspended until further notice. "Frankly," declared a Western military attaché, "the Girl Guides could take this country over at any moment."

Budget cuts are the main reason for the rapid collapse of one of Europe's main land armies. The already scaled-down defence budget was cut by a further 25 per cent and the ministry has been left to scrape around for cash to pay for even the most basic services.

First to suffer, as usual, have been the national servicemen who are currently paid £8 a month. The allocation for food is now only just above the amount earmarked for convicts and soldiers complain it is inedible. Most soldiers live in old barracks without hot water or heating. Sheets are rarely changed to save on laundry bills. The army medical service is short of staff, beds and drugs.

Little wonder then that the army is finding it difficult to drum up conscripts for even the shrivelled force of the 1990s. Opinion polls recently showed that 70 per cent of male students entered university solely to avoid army service.

As a military force, the Polish units — like their Hungarian and Czech-

slovak comrades in arms — are looking drained and sickly. The Polish air force has slipped between 15 and 20 years behind the West in terms of aviation technology. Its most modern planes are Soviet MiG 29s — the same models that were so effectively shot down over Iraq.

The huge army debts — it owes money to everybody from regimental butchers to tank makers — have given rise to a new scam. Arms manufacturers have been waiting for months to be paid by the army and most have had to lay off workers. Private and state bankers have bought up the defence ministry debts and are poised to make big profits.

It works like this: the army owes a machine gun factory £1 million but cannot pay up, probably for years to come, if at all. The bankers buy the debt at a discount price of say £400,000, allowing the factory to pay its workers and stay afloat a little longer. But the army is now in hock to the bankers.

By the end of the year the army will have to pay the financiers, but the money will eventually have to come from the state treasury unless the army makes panic sales of its few remaining assets. Colonel Tadeusz Jedynasty, the army's deputy chief of technical supplies, says if this buyout continues, "the banks will have completely bought out the army."

The army needs a knight in shining armour to save it from insolvency. Unfortunately, it could not afford to pay for the horse.

Gorbachev appeals for boost in credits

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday made an appeal to the Soviet parliament to approve a multibillion-ruble increase in the national debt, warning of "catastrophe" and "collapse" if his plea was ignored. Unhappy deputies, who had twice rejected demands from the exchequer for additional credits, listened restlessly and left a decision on the budget until later. The president's appearance before parliament seemed to be part of a brave, but probably vain, attempt to impose some personal and administrative authority.

The impact of the coup still reverberates. Yesterday Anatoli Lukyanov, the former Supreme Soviet chairman and once a Gorbachev ally, was interrogated in prison over his alleged role in August.

After addressing parliament, Mr Gorbachev left for Irkutsk in eastern Siberia. From there he will go on to the Central Asian republic of Kirghizia. This is his first trip inside the country since his ill-fated summer holiday and it



Coup quiz: Anatoli Lukyanov being interrogated in a Moscow jail yesterday over his alleged role in the August takeover

may have the secondary aim of competing for domestic headlines with Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, who starts his three-day official visit to Germany today.

Mr Gorbachev's address yesterday was unusually defensive and lacked conviction. He itemised the projected 9 per cent fall in agricultural production, 7 per cent drop in industrial production, the 31

per cent decline in exports and the 42 per cent fall in exports. Stating this year's budget deficit was likely to reach 300 billion roubles (£300 billion at the exchange rate under communism), he concluded: "The chief reason for the deficit is the economic decline." Later, Ivan Silayev, the acting prime minister, said total revenue to the central exchequer this year was likely to reach only 113

billion roubles, less than half the planned figure of 250 billion.

After it became known that the Russian government had just refused to agree to the emergency union budget proposed for the last quarter of the year, saying it was incompatible with its reform programme. The budget, which incorporates at least 90 billion roubles in state bank

credits to the central government, was agreed by the governments of nine republics, and two reserved judgment.

Russia's economic dominance means that its stand could be decisive. Deputies went away as disconsolate as they had arrived, convinced that it barely mattered whether they approved Mr Gorbachev's emergency budget or not.

Runaway train kills 40

Tehuacan, Mexico — Rescuers pulled almost 40 bodies from wreckage caused by a goods train that left the rails and flattened cars and a bus after its crew abandoned it when the brakes failed.

Police said the heavily laden train, which may have reached speeds of 125mph before it crashed, destroyed seven houses. Children from a nearby school were among the dead and injured. (Reuters)

Swiss tremor

Cham — Switzerland was hit by its worst earthquake in 30 years yesterday, but the only serious casualty was the electricity supply to the Grisons canton, which was cut for about 30 minutes. The main shock, measured between 5.0 and 5.2 on the Richter scale and was followed by seven smaller tremors. (Reuters)

Large-scale

Moscow — Residents in Stavropol, a remote Siberian village, have reported seeing a giant, grey, snake-like creature with the head of a crocodile and a long, thin, forked tongue. The creature was about 10m long and 2m wide. It was seen in a swampy area near a school. One resident said it took a photograph of the creature.

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PEACE PROCESS

Egypt urges Europe role

From MICHAEL BINYON IN STRASBOURG

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt yesterday appealed to Europe to remain involved in the Middle East peace process and to foster democracy in the region by generous aid for development.

Addressing the European parliament here, he said the European Community's attendance at the Madrid peace conference had been important in maintaining pressure for a settlement. "I am confident that you shall continue to pursue your traditionally constructive role in the Mediterranean basin and in the Middle East," he said.

But Mr Mubarak challenged MEPs to increase development aid. He asked if it was enough to give less than 1 per cent of gross domestic product for foreign aid? Was it acceptable that the net flow of capital to the developing world had fallen by 50 per cent in the past eight years? How much longer could the global debt problem remain unresolved? He said there could be no democracy in the Middle East without development, and development would be possible only if trade barriers were removed.

The Egyptian president also expressed doubts about the growing tendency to link aid to human rights and democracy. The method and pace of the implementation of human rights and democracy varied from country to country. He said that setting conditions could ultimately hinder progress.

He urged Europe to do more to prevent the accumulation of weapons in the Middle East, especially nuclear weapons, and called for support for Egypt's proposals for a nuclear-free zone in the region. President Mubarak also reassured Europe that the revival of Islam posed no threat to any nation. Islam was a creed of tolerance and co-existence.

"The manifestations of conflict and hate which you occasionally observe are alien to Islam, even if they are perpetrated in the name of this great religion," he said. Acts of despair and fanaticism were only a passing phase and the true face of Islam would overpower these aberrations.



Sweet refuge: an 18-month-old Haitian boy, his head bandaged after surgery, sucks a lollipop as American officials decided his fate and that of 2,600 boat people held on US Coast Guard cutters off Cuba after fleeing Haiti

Refugees from birth of Israel keep holy war dreams alive

In the Palestinian camps of Jordan, the Middle East talks fail to inspire hope. The talk is of hate, and the land they lost, Christopher Walker reports from Amman

HALF the five million Palestinians in the world, 430,000 of them in the desert kingdom of Jordan, claim to belong to a category forgotten in the new Madrid peace process.

"We are the refugees of 1947 and 1948 who are not involved in what is being negotiated at the table now," said Kassim Awar, a Palestinian who has lived in a camp ever since he was driven from his home near the port of Jaffa amid the foundation of the state of Israel. The so-called "other half", the refugees who left before the 1967 Middle East war, fear that their right of return to land which is now part of the state of Israel will be ignored and that, at best, they will receive derisory compensation.

At the Baqa'a refugee camp near Amman, the Middle East's largest, 90 per cent of the 130,000 inmates are from families which fled their homes in 1947 and 1948. "For us, this peace process is meaningless," Abdel Saif, aged 67, said. "We are on the sidelines, we are not involved. It might as well be held on the moon."

The resentment of the

"other half" is reflected on the squalid streets (where Westerners are provided with two Jordanian bodyguards) by the continuing worship of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, whose portrait remains everywhere. There is no sign of the olive branches which were waved in the occupied West Bank.

"Saddam Hussein lives in our hearts," Mustapha, aged 20, said. "He represents what is in our hearts because he bombed Israel. He was the first Arab leader to make the Jews cry."

No Arab official expects the refugees of 1947 and 1948 to secure the right of return. But Jordanian sources claim that, in phase three of the peace process, attempts will be made to win them financial compensation. Many still keep the keys of the homes which they left behind and dream of a return that would live up to the worst fears of Israeli hawks

by requiring the destruction of the Jewish state. "My father fought the Zionists with a Sten gun. I fought them with a Kalashnikov. Saddam fought them with missiles and I hope my ten-year-old son will eventually fight them with an Arab nuclear bomb," said Mr Awar, owner of the Palestine Pharmacy.

The fury of the "other half" is in evidence whenever a Western face is spotted in the camp which began as 5,000 tents and now consists of thousands of bleak concrete dwellings. "There are hopes for peace from the talks, but it will not help these people to go back to their homes," Tahseen Bargawi, the camp administrator, said. "Attempts may be made to secure them at least the chance of going to the West Bank or Gaza but that is not where they lived."

Many refugees said angrily they would not go to live in either the West Bank or Gaza Strip as refugees. In an attempt to calm rising anger the Palestinian delegates from Madrid spent three days in

Jordan on their return trying to assure Palestinians they would never forfeit the right of return originally enshrined in United Nations resolution 194, passed in December, 1948.

"We do not believe these Arab leaders, they have let us down too many times before," said Mr Awar, father of six children, who has framed the key to his old family house.

"The people in the camp are very depressed, we see it in the surgery," Hanna Abu Usbar, a young Palestinian doctor, said. "Most of them believe in the Muslim teaching that only a jihad (holy war) with blood coming up to their knees will get back the land the Jews stole."

The Jordanian government has promised it will allow the "other half" to remain in camps: they are scattered among 64 camps in three countries as well as in the West Bank and Gaza. But a few minutes in the Baqa'a camp is enough to show the Palestinian problem will not be over until the simmering hatreds have been removed.

"Saddam is the best in the Arab world," said a five-year-old boy, parroting words taught him by his father, who was buying one of the Baghdad dailies sold in the camp shops. "No peace to Israel."

Soldiers reminded to stand on ceremony

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

IN WARTIME few generals could fault Israel's fighting ability, but the conscripted peacetime army would be enough to make even the most liberal British drill sergeant weep with frustration.

While officers and enlisted men and women admit that the finer points of military etiquette have never been a strong point in the Israeli Defence Forces, it none the less came as a surprise this week when soldiers had to be reminded to salute senior members of the government, like the president and prime minister, and to call them "sir".

"These orders have been on the books," explained a forces spokesman. "However, they were reintroduced as a reminder. Saluting dignitaries is our way of paying respect and saying hello." The reminder

to salute the country's leaders was deemed necessary because of the relaxed atmosphere in the military where soldiers, regardless of rank, call each other by their first names and after training few if any troops ever bother to salute superiors.

"There are no social barriers in the Israeli military," said one soldier. "Because we have many reservists you may find that a bank manager is of a junior rank in the army to his teller, so he will not be expected to salute and say sir. I would be surprised if there were three people who knew how to salute properly in the whole army."

Learning to march is also anathema. At a recent passing-out parade of a crack unit, troops bumped into each other during the drill.

Saudi Gatsby shows great love of largesse

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRINCE Bandar Bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador to Washington, is the grandson of his country's first monarch, son-in-law of the third and nephew of the latest, but he has taken to heart Rudyard Kipling's admonition: he walks with kings, but keeps the common touch.

Last weekend, he cancelled all appointments and flew in his private plane to a small Connecticut town to attend the wedding of Robert Snow, an army staff sergeant with the dubious distinction of having required the most surgery of any soldier injured in the Gulf war. His wedding gift was \$100,000 (£26,000).

It was a typically flamboyant gesture from a man who has emerged as one of the "movers and shakers" in a capital full of people aspiring to that description. Prince Bandar played a crucial role in persuading King Fahd to accept 500,000 allied personnel in Saudi Arabia last year.

He is credited with persuading the Syrians to attend last month's Middle East peace talks in Madrid. This week it was disclosed that he has been secretly meeting American Jewish leaders in what is being portrayed here and in Jerusalem as a breakthrough in Saudi-Israeli relations.

After their last meeting at New York's Waldorf-Astoria hotel on Monday, American Jewish leaders said Prince Bandar had acknowledged that Israel was "an integral part of the region".

Prince Bandar was appointed ambassador to Washington in 1983, aged 34, after 17 years as a fighter-pilot. Until then Saudi Arabia had practically no top-level access here, but with his back-slapping bonhomie and lavish wealth, he carefully cultivated the rising politicians of the period, throwing parties at his mansion and fishing with George Bush, then vice-president, earning a reputation as an "Arab Gatsby".

According to the book *The*

Commanders, by the Watergate journalist, Bob Woodward, "Prince Bandar's fingerprints were all over the Iran-Contra affair". The book alleges he channelled Saudi funding to the Nicaraguan Contras. He was the middleman through whom William Casey, the CIA director, passed top-secret satellite information about Iranian troop movements.

By the time Mr Bush took office in 1989, Prince Bandar was a close friend not only of the president, but of Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, James



Prince Bandar: \$100,000 gift to Gulf sergeant

Baker, the Secretary of State, and Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

He acted as translator at the critical meeting at which Mr Cheney sought to persuade King Fahd of his kingdom's peril. It was he who relayed to King Fahd Mr Bush's final decision to go to war.

Prince Bandar first encountered Sergeant Snow in Washington's Walter Reed army hospital last March. The prince had back problems. The sergeant had stepped on a mine. Prince Bandar went to express his gratitude, and returned from Madrid this month to find Sergeant Snow's wedding invitation.

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Japanese wrangle grounds peace force

By JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO AND DAVID WATTS

AS JAPAN gets close to approving legislation that will allow it to send peacekeeping forces overseas for the first time, doubts are growing that such forces will ever make it to Cambodia, their proposed first destination.

Although Japanese officials have said repeatedly that they want the country to demonstrate its new world role through a peacekeeping force for Cambodia, the conditions that Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, is being compelled to put on their use seem likely to delay their debut. On Monday, when a special committee of the lower house of the Diet (parliament) began to debate the peacekeeping plan, Mr Miyazawa said he would not send troops to Cambodia as long as there was a danger of a truce violation.

"Japan's decision to send troops to join the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Cambodia will depend on whether the four Cambodian rival factions abide by the truce accord," he said. Next day he said the UN would not have the right of command over any Japanese contingent.

The decision to fire in self-defence would be left to each Japanese peacekeeper, regardless of orders issued by the UN-appointed commander.

Prodded by Washington which has challenged Japan to play a more significant role in international peacekeeping, Mr Miyazawa is confronted with what some claim to be the most contentious political issue since debate over the US-Japan security pact in 1960. Genuinely he has said that passage of the bill is of high priority on his agenda, and he expects it to go through in the current session of the Diet, which ends on December 10.

In what could be a crucial test of his leadership, Mr Miyazawa is being daily subjected to a barrage of opposition taunts and hedging tactics similar to those that bludgeoned Toshiki Kaifu, his predecessor, into twice abandoning the bill. The largest opposition group, the Social Democratic party, is fundamentally opposed to the dispatch of troops on the grounds that this would violate Japan's constitution, which renounces all use of

force. When the party joins other opposition groups, it controls the upper house of the Diet and could inflict an embarrassing third defeat on the ruling Liberal Democratic party unless Mr Miyazawa can woo Komeito and the Democratic Social party, the second and third largest opposition groups, on to his side.

To that end Mr Miyazawa has spent the past week tying himself in verbal knots, offering compromises that have left America and Tokyo-based members of the UN wondering whether Japanese participation in a UN peacekeeping operation may turn out to be more of a hindrance than a help.

The envisioned role of the Japanese forces is already strictly circumscribed, according to stipulations introduced by Mr Kaifu designed to appease the opposition parties. A ceasefire agreement must already be in place before troops are sent, all countries in the region and parties to the conflict must approve of Japanese participation, and forces must withdraw if hostilities break out.



On top form: Prince Norodom Sihanouk, jubilant since his return home last week after 13 years' exile, who was yesterday officially declared Cambodia's president by Hor Namhong, the foreign minister. The appointment, completing the prince's effective reversal of his country's history, came appropriately on the day Cambodia celebrates the Festival of the Reversing of the Current, when the main Tonle Sap river reverses its flow under pressure from the larger Mekong and moves upstream, for six months, into the great Tonle Sap lake (James Pringle writes from Phnom Penh).

In the declaration, the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh, led by Heng Samrin, said the prince "has always remained the absolute-

ly legal and legitimate head of state of Cambodia as before the coup of March 18, 1970". Sworn enemies a month ago, the prince and former rivals sat in a pavilion at the confluence of the Mekong and Tonle Sap to celebrate the festival, also marking the end of the flood season and the start of harvest. "This is justice for Prince Norodom Sihanouk," the former monarch shouted to the crowd, among whom were thousands of UN peacekeepers.

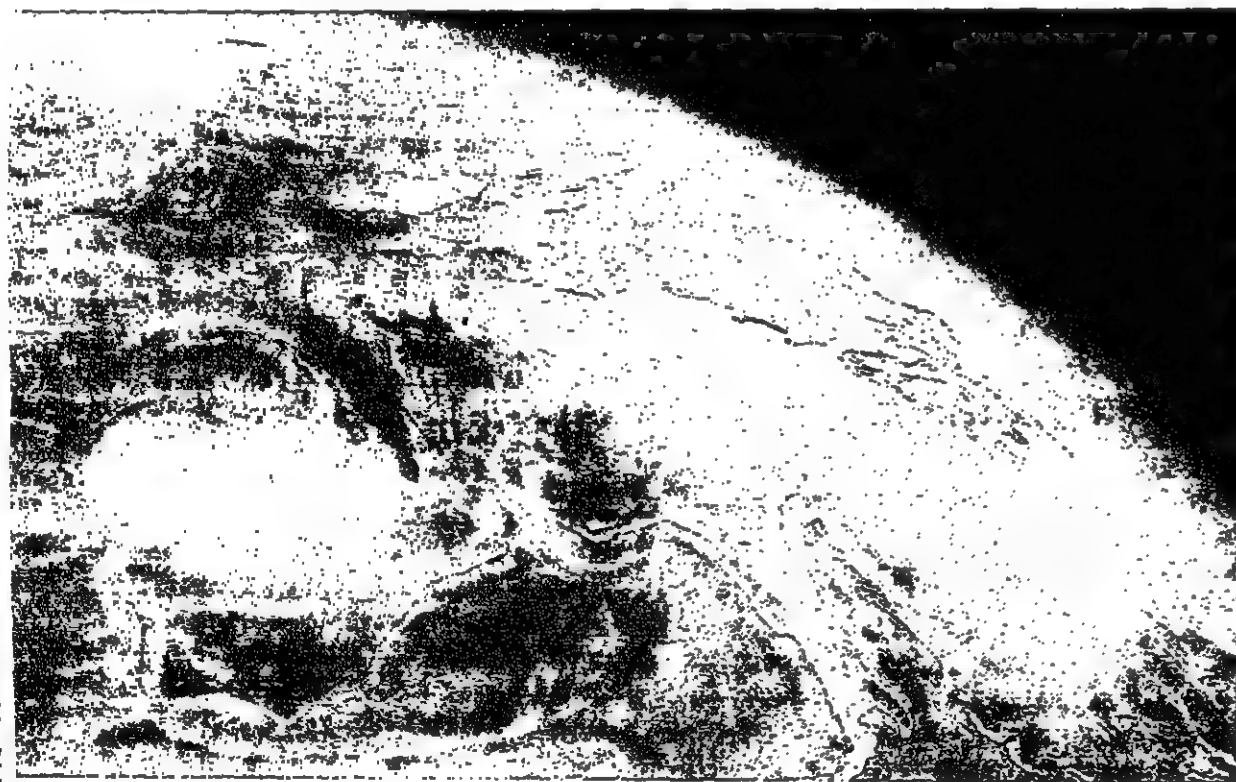
Since the Cambodian peace accord was signed on October 23, new political alliances are emerging and it transpires now that Prince Sihanouk has always been regarded as the legal head of state by the Heng Samrin regime. The chief enemy of this new alliance, it now seems, is not the notorious

Khmer Rouge but the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, the resistance faction led by Son Sann, the former prime minister due to return to Cambodia today.

The front is the successor to the US-backed Lon Nol regime which overthrew Prince Sihanouk in 1970 and which, in turn, was ousted by the Khmer Rouge. "You must not look at all this in terms of logic," said a foreign diplomat yesterday, explaining. "I suppose it is a change of allegiances. I suppose it is a political reversal of the current." Yesterday's declaration said that the "reactionary coup" of 1970 was illegal and "the main cause of tragedies befallen the Cambodian people and nation for the last two decades".

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Pyongyang hints at nuclear site checks

By DAVID WATTS
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

HINTS of a North Korean compromise on inspection of its nuclear facilities emerged yesterday as Richard Cheney, the American secretary of defence, took up the issue during a visit to South Korea.

The clue was dropped by a senior North Korean cadre attending a Washington conference when he said that Pyongyang could soften its insistence on a withdrawal of American forces from South Korea before such inspections take place. More important was simultaneous inspection of the nuclear facilities in both North and South Korea.

The disclosure was made by Choi U Jin, vice-president of the North Korean Institute for Disarmament and Peace, who led a three-man delegation to a closed conference, Korea in the '90s, at the Gaston Sigur Institute for Asian Studies, George Washington University. Only Americans and North Koreans attended.

That hint coincided with a South Korean proposal to be discussed by Mr Cheney, General Colin Powell, the American chief of staff, and their Korean counterparts that the North be offered a scaling-down of the annual Team Spirit spring exercise, a reduction in the number of US troops, and international inspection of American bases for nuclear weapons.

Indonesia arrests rights activists

London — Indonesia has arrested three human rights activists to prevent them going to East Timor to investigate the two mass killings of civilians by the military (David Watts writes).

Indro Tjahjono, of the Indonesian Front for Human Rights, Poncie Princen, chairman of the League for the Defence of Human Rights, and Yopie Lasan are being held by the armed forces. The territory's military commander has admitted his men fired into a crowd of mourners for up to ten minutes.

Reporter returns

Peking — Dai Qing, the Chinese dissident and journalist, returned home after disappearing for five days during the visit of James Baker, the American Secretary of State. She said she was abducted by agents operating on the orders of her state-controlled paper, the *Guangming Daily*, and taken to Beijing. (Reuters)

Mending fences

Islamabad — American officials, led by Reginald Bartholomew, the undersecretary of state, held "confidential and useful" talks with Pakistan after President Ishtiaq Khan had accused the US of discriminating against Islamabad. Washington had cut off all aid, believing Pakistan was making nuclear weapons. (Reuters)

British pair train spotlight on poor

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

FOR 15 years Ashley and Jane Butterfield have shared the lives of railway families living in jhuggis beside the tracks at New Delhi railway station. Every porter, ticket clerk, sweeper and station beggar knows the Yorkshire couple's old red carriage. Whenever it clatters back down the tracks from its wanderings around India, it is greeted by hordes of children.

The Butterfields invariably return with clothes and other presents. In the crowded huts where generations of railwaymen have brought up their families, it seems everybody has a story to tell about the couple's generosity. Not only in Delhi, but across India, at countless railway stations, they and their old wooden carriage are a familiar sight.

Chotey Lal, a railway labourer earning the equivalent of £1 a day, said he could never have raised the dowry for four of his daughters without the Butterfields' help. Even then he had to go deeply into debt with moneylenders.

Standing outside a brick hut where he lives with a dozen family members a few feet from the tracks at New Delhi station, he said: "I have not had any problems since the Butterfields came into my life. I know my family will be all right if I die. It is a great comfort. I came home for lunch one day many years ago and there they were, they have been in my life ever since."

Children besiege the Butterfields whenever they stop

down to the tracks from their carriage, which they use every winter to ferry tourists round India. In the summer they return to their Wimbledon flat, staying in touch by sending occasional letters to railway families through the station manager.

Children wait for hours outside the carriage hoping for a cast-off shirt or a pair of shoes. Mrs Butterfield, aged 41, says she introduces tourists to the slum families "because then they see these people as individuals, not just as the faceless poor". Sitting on a charpoy alongside the tracks, with children clambering over her, she added: "Being poor in India does not mean being miserable."

As she talked, women hung their washing on signal cables, boys played football between the tracks and girls skipped over a rope made of bits of string. "Look around: life goes on beside these tracks much as it does everywhere," she said.

The Butterfields have fought many battles for destitute railway children, and shared in personal dramas when the authorities once threatened to demolish the slum huts. Shabana, a young mother just out of jail for drug pushing, has turned up to get news of her daughter, aged eight, whom the Butterfields helped place in care.

A huge crowd of children and adults gathered round to listen above the din of a train rumbling by. For the Butterfields, it's all in the day's work.

The pain and joy of ex

Divorce can be the key to better health for those locked into unhappy marriages, says Victoria McKee

When Alison Coates was married she was constantly ill, suffering from stomach aches, headaches and severe period pains. The cure for her was a divorce. None of her symptoms have returned during nine years of single parenthood.

According to two reports published this week, divorce is now considered to affect health, but contrary to the experience of Ms Coates, aged 37, the reports claim that divorce is causing a great deal of damage. If marital breakdown could be prevented, they suggest, the National Health Service could save millions.

Marital Breakdown and the Health of the Nation, by One Plus One, formerly the Marriage Research Centre, and *The Decay of Marriage*, by George Brown, the divorce lawyer, published by the Family Education Trust, look into the effects of divorce on the country's health.

According to the One Plus One report, divorced men aged between 35

'Unhappiness is unhappiness and if people are unhappy they are likely to get ill'

and 44 are twice as likely to die early as married men of the same age. Divorced women aged between 29 and 34 are one-and-a-half times more likely to die early than their married counterparts, and three times as likely to attempt suicide. Both divorced men and women drink and smoke more, and are prone to diseases such as hypertension, asthma, headaches and chest pains.

But what about the ill that an unhappy marriage breeds, and the positive effect of being released?

As with Ms Coates, Sally Benjamin, an American living in Britain, found that her health improved when she divorced. Ms Benjamin, aged 54, is the co-founder of The Renewal Trust, which refers women alcoholics and addicts for treatment. She is a recovering alcoholic herself, who "sobered up" during the last of her three marriages.

"During that marriage - when I was sober - I developed ulcers, tiny little pin-prick ones, and I also had painful boils," Mrs Benjamin says. "The doctor told me it was tension. It was only after the divorce that I began to be aware that I wasn't getting the boils any more, and that if I forgot to take the pills for the ulcers, nothing happened."

Dr Jan de Winter, the founder of the Jan de Winter Cancer Prevention Centre in Brighton, feels that unhappiness in a relationship can suppress the immune system and make you more susceptible to disease of all kinds. He believes an unhappy marriage is more likely adversely to affect



New woman: since her divorce, Alison Coates, aged 37, has enjoyed perfect health and a happy life as a single parent

a woman, who may have invested more in her personal life, than a man - while the new statistics seem to show that divorce is more damaging to the health of men.

So is it better, purely from the health perspective, to stick in an unhappy marriage or to divorce?

Professor Cary Cooper, a stress expert, and his wife Rachel, a lecturer, have experienced both an unhappy marriage and unhealthy divorce. Professor Cooper recalls that in the run-up to his divorce from his first wife, he suffered a viral illness. "My immune system completely collapsed, rather like having ME [myalgic encephalomyelitis]," he says. Rachel Cooper, his second wife, also experienced physical symptoms when her previous marriage broke up: "I developed a rash and my face blew up," she remembers. "But all this happened afterwards, possibly because my husband left me, rather than the other way around."

Professor Cooper is involved in a ten-year study of 500 senior British executives and confirms that, "where divorce is occurring we see illness even in male 'ladder-climbers' who, perhaps, worry that people will perceive them as having failed. I know I felt a failure because of my divorce."

The Coopers' experiences would seem to confirm the theory that the partner who feels unhappy enough in the marriage to initiate divorce proceedings is more likely to suffer health symptoms before the decision, while the passive participant in a divorce may have physical symptoms afterwards.

Zelda West-Meads, of Relate, explains: "The initiating partner has been starting to go through in their mind the separation, so they're further down the road than the partner who is left." While Mrs West-Meads agrees that, "the process of divorce is

damaging", she also believes that, "an unhappy marriage is bad for your health. With divorce there can be a sense of recovery."

Dr Jack Dominion, the founder of One Plus One, says: "The evidence is that there are a lot of problems among the divorced, some of which may be due to the stress of having lost a partner, some simply to the single state. If you have stress you really ought to try to do something about it, rather than rushing into divorce."

Dr David Zigmond, a specialist in psychosomatics at the Hammersmith Hospital, west London, says that he has referred as many patients to Relate as to hospitals. "Unhappiness is unhappiness and if people are unhappy they are likely to get ill," he says. "For some people being trapped in an unhappy marriage is the worst thing, for others it's being alone." No studies have yet been done on how second marriages affect the health, for better or for worse.

Waite: never say die

TERRY Waite's career in the army was short-lived. The dye in the uniform induced eczema and he had to transfer from serving the Queen in the Grenadier Guards to serving God in the Church Army.



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Seldom can a liability to suffer from allergic diseases have had such far-reaching consequences. History does not relate whether the itch and inflammation was due to khaki or scarlet dye, or even the bearskin. Four people in a thousand suffer from an allergy to fur. But had it not been for his dermatitis Terry Waite might now be a retired, respected but feared, regimental sergeant major, rather than a serving church diplomat, internationally famous for his faith and courage.

The dye in clothes that does the damage belongs to the phenylenediamine group. It is used in some furs, though it seems unlikely it would be applied to bearskins. The trouble may be either generalised or localised, as under a watchstrap or under tight, dyed clothing.

Many patients, for instance, have been driven by fear and conscience to a sexually transmitted diseases clinic when gaudy tight pants have caused a nasty reaction. Phenylenediamine sensitivity can even occasionally cause asthma, from which Terry Waite suffers.

The atopic diseases, hay fever, asthma, eczema and some forms of urticaria are

linked and caused by an hereditary hypersensitivity to a wide variety of environmental allergens.

In the five years Terry Waite was held hostage, research into the treatment of asthma has advanced but the first principle of treatment in allergic diseases remains the removal, when possible, of the cause of the allergy, whether, as in Mr Waite's case from his uniform, or an asthmatic child from a beloved cat.

As the drugs used in the treatment of asthma have become more efficient the need to reduce the exposure to triggering substances has, mistakenly, been overlooked in favour of an increased reliance on anti-spasmodics.

The first line of attack when the regular use of drugs is needed should be the low-dose inhaled steroids. These have an anti-inflammatory rather than an anti-spasmodic role and can be supplemented if necessary by selective beta adrenoceptor stimulants.

One of this group, the long-acting Serevent, which may also have some minor anti-inflammatory powers, has been introduced since Mr Waite last went to the chemist; but he will still need to carry Ventolin or a similar preparation, for emergency first aid use. Drugs of the inhaler type are now less widely prescribed.

A whiff of worry

EVEN if a dog is given a bad name, death erases its memory. Not so in medicine: attribute a disaster to a drug and its notoriety lives on for generations.

Seven-and-a-half years ago a nine-week-old baby died when its stuffy nose was treated with an aromatic decongestant made from balsam, menthol, pine oils and eucalyptus. No direct link was ever proved but ever since then, text books have carried a warning about the use of aromatic decongestants in treating small children.

The British National Formulary advises that these homey remedies should not be used in children under three months. The death of another nine-week-old baby has recently reinforced this anxiety. The child's mother used Karvol, an aromatic



decongestant, although she could not remember if she had used any on the day the child died.

Although the *British Medical Journal* decreed in 1989 that there was no evidence that aromatic decongestants were dangerous for very young babies, it would seem a wise precau-

tion to find other ways of cleaning their noses, perhaps with cotton buds. In future Karvol will carry the British National Formulary advice on its label, not because its safety is doubted, but on the general principle that the treatment of young babies should be under medical supervision.

The good news is that research is finding ways of detecting cancer of the prostate early, and is evaluating various treatments for both benign and malignant prostatic disease. The outlook in serious renal disease has never been better, whether due to such diverse causes as polycystic kidney disease or diabetes.

more than 7,000 die of cancer of the prostate, the second most common cause of death from malignant disease. Most men over 65 have some trouble from benign prostatic enlargement.

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The novel as mazy marathon

The strange case of the emperor's first novel: Hugh Barnes on a monumental, maddening but marvellous book, which the literati have already been discussing for 30 years

The idea of the writer as anchorite or recluse is currently fashionable in the United States, where the reputations of celebrity hermits such as J.D. Salinger and Thomas Pynchon swell inexorably with every book they don't publish. Perhaps America's most famous non-novelist is Harold Brodkey, who has spent the last 30 years writing (and re-writing) his first novel.

Although Brodkey has published only two collections of short stories in the past, his awesome unproductivity has made him a favourite among New York's literati, who never tire of gossiping about his brilliant anti-career. In some respects, Brodkey is a victim of what Henry James called "exaggerated homage". He has been compared to Proust, Wordsworth, Freud, and even Shakespeare. And yet it is almost inevitable that the excitement aroused by publication of *The Runaway Soul* will soon give way to a strong sense of anti-climax. By finishing the world's most notorious unfinished novel, Brodkey could be performing an act of vandalism on his own reputation.

So much for the emperor's new novel. Because reticence is not only the method but also the theme of *The Runaway Soul*, it is worth observing that the novel is no more, and no less, than a comedy about the duplicity of a writer — even, perhaps especially, with respect to his own life. Unfortunately it is a comedy without much humour, without much narrative continuity. As you would expect of a novelist intent on tracking his private thoughts over 850 pages, Brodkey is pretty indifferent to the bewilderment he induces in the reader.

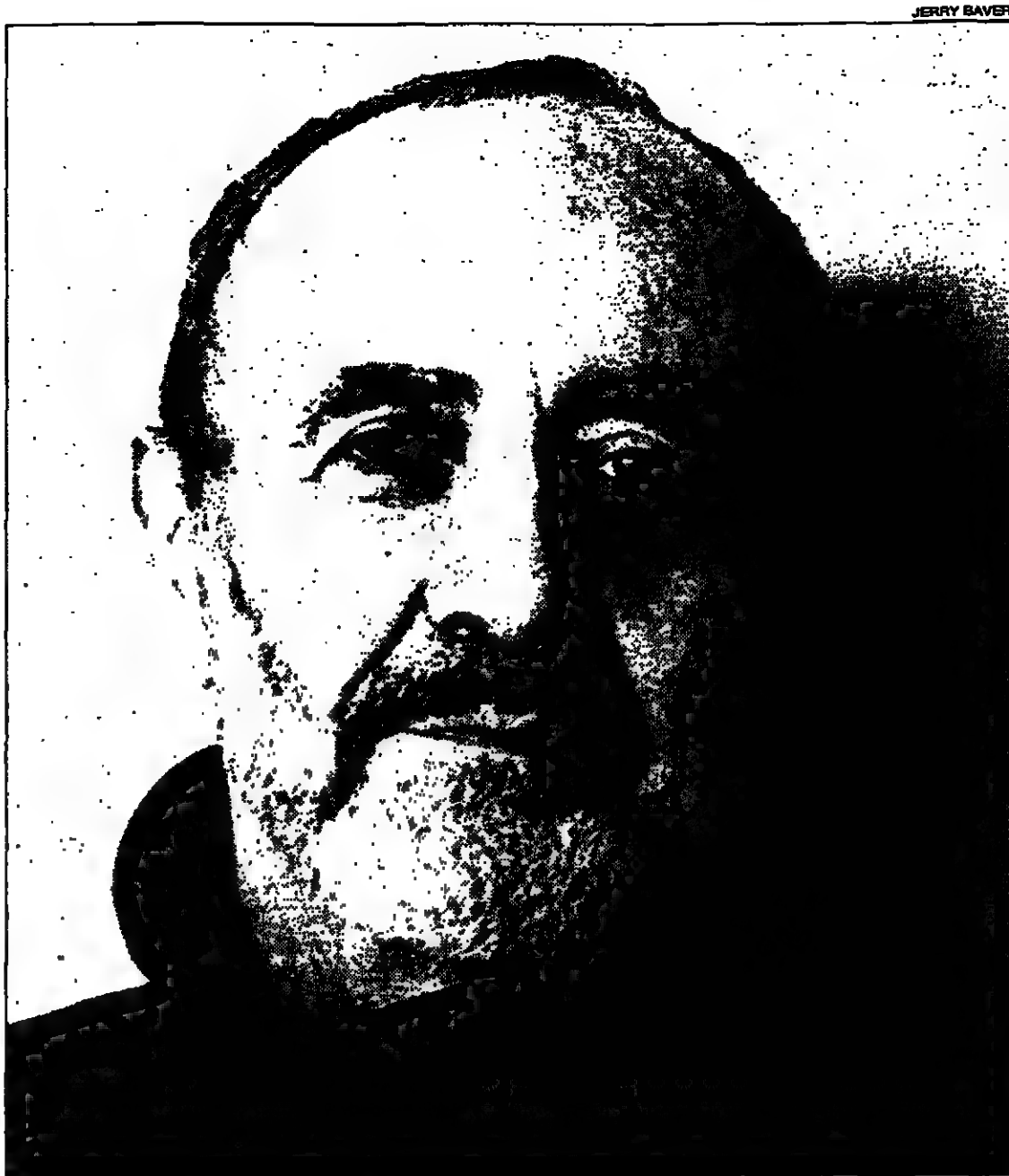
The Runaway Soul is primarily about a young boy growing up, as

Brodkey did, in St Louis during the Thirties. After the death of his natural mother, Wiley (the novel's narrator) is adopted by the more or less respectable family of S.L. Silenowicz, a low-level entrepreneur, and his shrewd but domineering wife Lila. The couple already have a daughter, Nonie, who is ten years older than Wiley. Dizzy and hysterical, she gets jealous because S.L. grows fonder of his adopted son than of his wife and daughter.

The novel's pattern of discontinuity stems from its chaotic time-scheme which juxtaposes different periods in Wiley's life, sometimes inverting chronology. Brodkey appears to be more interested in playing variations on clumsiness than in capturing the passage of time. Later episodes precede earlier ones in the sequence of the novel. For instance, the story begins with Wiley's birth and then jumps forward 15 years to S.L.'s death and then back a dozen years to his infancy and then forward 20 years to Harvard, and then back again, and so on.

Brodkey hints and tantalises. Years of reworking mean he does not have to be particular. In a way, that makes *The Runaway Soul* difficult to read; it is overlong. At times Brodkey seems to get carried away. He can devote 30 pages to the exact tonality of his mother's voice, and even more to a sexual act. The sex scenes are not particularly explicit, but they are erotic in the best way: they show us what the characters really feel.

The novel is sympathetic — some people might say too sympathetic — to these irritating, remarkably self-absorbed people, but you cannot help forgiving the novel's faults on account of its sheer genius and



Harold Brodkey, and the loneliness of the writer as long-distance celebrity, with a famous unfinished novel

THE RUNAWAY SOUL
By Harold Brodkey
Cape, £15.99

insight. Brodkey handles the characters intricately, with perversity and erudition. He doesn't understand them to death. He doesn't turn them into literature.

The most traumatic childhood scene occurs during a thunderstorm — it's Brodkey's big number — and although he turns the storm into a violent phantasmagoric nightmare, he does not overdo a single thing. Indeed it amazes you that he can do so much with thunder and lightning — just a little panic. Brodkey seems to be having fun. A good argument can be made, however, that fun is not Brodkey's

metier. Here and there, *The Runaway Soul* shows signs of strain — in its occasionally forced dialogue, and its repetitions that do not enrich but merely rephrase what has already been said. Shocking and obsessive, boring even, the novel is unlike anything else you will read this year, or next year, or the year after. It is a painstaking work in scale and in emotional pitch.

Although the prose is lucidly beautiful, and its rhythm is almost lulling, Brodkey's tone can be murderously elusive. His anger and intellect sit together guarding his cold empty heart — maddened by it — but his attitude towards the material is so complicated and ambiguous that the narrative is always on the verge of losing its balance. Some of Brodkey's paragraphs are almost wholly opaque — jagged, layered, diffuse. Some of his characters are so tangled up that you could spend the next 30 years reading (and re-reading) this marvellous novel and still not figure them out.

The lady was for spurning

Victoria Glendinning

BLOODY MARGARET
By Mark Lawson
Picador, £14.99

the real-life Gang of Four and to the fictional Graham Sterling, who is so lost in his pursuit of the middle way that he can't tell his right wellie from his left.

The Nice People's Party seems custom-made for Graham — if not for his friends, who include a pompous hard-left bore and a jovial Conservative bore. They, like Graham's awful wife, are all cartoon characters, and meant to be — I think. This is animated journalism by an animated journalist who cannot resist the mission to

inform. Graham has a difficulty — in bed: the nice man cometh not. This book has the same little problem. It is subtitled "Three Political Fantasies", but the fantasy is repeatedly flattened by facts before it can take off. Although "the writer is nervously aware that most people are sensibly incurious about the minutiae of politics", he continues to dole them out in the brisk manner of colour-

supplement reviews of the decade. But there are endless good jokes along the way as the group of friends, in a series of dreadful dinner-parties which give scope for satirising 1980s sexual mores and class indicators, adjust their ideological sets to the Falklands war, Big Bang and the fall of the Wall. There is much funny and finely tuned social observation, such as how to tell the

committed left-wing from the apathetic majority by their pronunciation of Nicaragua: "Knee-bar-nah-wah" for the former, "Knicker-rag-wa" for the rest. The last story, "Teach Yourself American in Seven Days", is a satirical cross-cultural romp about an English journalist who turns himself into an American. The middle tale, the title story, is a kaleidoscopic vision of the fall of Mrs Thatcher as seen by a security man, a cleaning-woman at No 10, her chief Press Secretary, an old

schoolfriend, a soldier who lost his face in the Falklands; a sceptical reporter, a loyalist cabinet minister, her spiritual adviser, an ultra-loyal back-bencher and the lady in Shepherd's Bush who allegedly administered the electric baths ("More power! more power!"). There are spurts of real fantasy here and, among much scurrility, the acknowledgment that even the most hardened observer shed a tear as the car drew away from Downing Street with the lady for the last time. This spirited book will give a lot of guilty pleasure to all parties. No one is spared. No sacred cow is left unshot.

Hugh Brodkey's first volume of fiction, *Means of Escape*, is a natural extension of his classic works of anthropology, and no less powerful as fiction for that. In each of the five stories a sharply etched land-

scape, or a journey back to the place of one's origin, is the trigger for a strong emotional release for someone who has been adrift in a sea of change. The holocaust is a terrible map-destroying event that ties at the back of two tales, "Family Trees" and "The Lake". In both cases elderly Jewish women, who escaped to England during the war, married and settled here for life, have to confront the memories of what happened to their families. There is no escape, despite the title: history must tell itself. And so Aunt Sonia is forced to relive the holocaust, to pass her story down through the family; and so an elderly couple, driving to Berlin to witness the pulling down of the Wall, transcend years of silence as the wife tells her husband for the first time how she survives. *Helping Verbs of the Heart*: A Novel is the first of Peter Esterhazy's books to be published in English. Highly respected in Hungary for his innovative novels on controversial subjects, he deals here, autobiographically one has to assume, with the death of a parent. With his sister, two brothers and a sister, the narrator visits his mother in hospital, attends her funeral, and struggles to make sense of her demise. Intertwoven among the black-rimmed pages are excerpts and quotations from Camus, St Paul and others. Just as one is getting used to this philosophical perspective, the impertinent, incongruously lucky, voice of the deceased enters the narrative, talking to her bewildered son. The reader is completely cut out by the author's final line: "Some day I'll write about all this in more detail."

Journo as sleuth

UNEMPLOYED back, Archie Archibald, hired by eccentric television producer to travel urgently to Yorkshire Dales to look into nine-year-old murder, for which wrong man may have been convicted. Goaded by enigmatic phone calls from his boss, the shambling, amiably confused Archie uncovers new evidence, lying witnesses and more deaths. Spirited first-timer full of quirky humour.

Marcel Berlins
MURDEROUS JUSTICE
By Steve Hayward
Collins, £13.99

would be among the best Spensers but for over-intrusion of new dog.

Fastlane, by Robert Parker (Viking, £14.99). Literate Boston gumshoe Spenser in reflective, sombre mood helping young friend find his wayward ma, fed with her lover to escape nasties. Spenser's own parental hang-ups revealed, doing his love for Susan the shrink tested, Taut, thoughtful, and

A H is for Humiliate, by Sue Graham (Macmillan, £13.99). The first Graham disappointment. For once the ebullient Kinsey Millhone is ill at ease in a story in which she spends much of her time in captivity among vicious crooks, doing undercover work for police on the trail of an insurance scam.

Fairy Stories are just SF arsy-versy for fun

SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

WITCHES ABROAD



By Terry Pratchett
Gollancz, £13.99
ONCE UPON A TIME
Edited by Lester Del Ray and Lisa Kessler
Legend, £16.99, paperback, £9.99

SO OFTEN science fictions are fairy tales knocked sideways by technology. The darkling plain is flash-lit by the radiance of radiation, the horizon-distant castle turns out to be a turfed database. Star Wars' movies understood this, tapping the mythic vein beneath the robot skull. But, here we have SF writers and fantasists barging into the fiercely hallowed ground of such legend — witches, dragons, elves — without the protective armour of a rationale. Both books work marvellously. If, Scout-like, you rub them together for Christmas, there'll be a hot time in the Sacred Grove tonight.

Who knows, it might even spark a whole new genre. Pratchett's latest spin to his Discworld, *Witches Abroad*, rushes headlong at the fairy ethos, with those weird sisters, Grannies Weatherwax, Ogg and Garlick, trying to stop a happy ending before it climaxes in disaster for all, but delight for the good/wicked godmother, Lady Lillith.

This is all a bit more self-conscious than we're used to from Pratchett and, while his jokes are still the best thing since Wodehouse, his intent has a very definite serious undertow. Addicts should especially note his concern with the fairy story itself whose "very existence overlays a faint but insistent pattern on the chaos that is history. Stories etch grooves deep enough for people to follow in the same way that water follows certain paths down a mountainside. And every time fresh actors tread the path of the story, the groove runs deeper."

Fear not, though, that the author is taking himself in too deeply. His comic footnotes

are still glorious — "dwarves have no female pronouns... it follows that the courtship of dwarfs is an incredibly tactful affair" — and he can even make the grim reaper into a good-humoured man. The lordly ones in the stories from *Once Upon a Time* range from the contemporary-cute of Isaac Asimov — does the Princess really have silicone implants? — to Terry Brooks' exquisite story of a dying boy who discovers that the troll he is fighting is really his disease. Asimov, though, does redeem himself with as joyful a reluctant dragon as ever Kenneth Grahame envisaged, and the other writers keep their New Aet unicorns

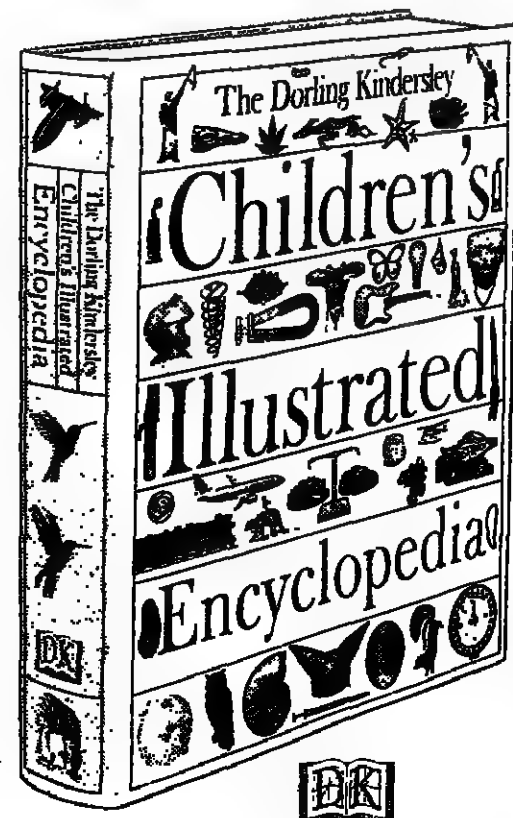
well-pastured and sleek with the freshness of their different style of grooming. But, of course, it is all the other side of the looking-glass upon reflection: to prove that science fiction can become fairy story: SF to FS. Either way round, the result is magic.

Terminal Velocity, by Bob Shaw (Gollancz, £13.99). Bob Shaw delivers. He guts atmosphere to streamline the action, but in this story of skycopter Haddon it works in a world where an anti-gravity harness has given the free-fall freedom of the skies to everyone — the M25 has never seen so much turmoil. Haddon has to overcome his phobias, cope with a psychopath called The Fireman, and deal with illegal sky-gangs on top of a Babel-high hotel. Fasten your seatbelts — it's a bumpy ride.

Opfer, by Claire Powell (Book Guild, £14.95). This one-volume trilogy — let's face it: three novellas — assumes a childish treble of style to tell its epic tale. This is about a feud that flees an obliterated Earth in an emotional universe, where telepathy pierces innermost thoughts. That style doesn't always adjust to content, but the compulsion to read on is there, all right. Cut the condescension and we have a fine new writer.

Albion, by John Grant (Headline, £14.95). The author has a more direct way with an alternative-world epic, as shipwrecked Terman helps Albion's lower orders against the ruling House. There are hints that a political allegory is about to break through the narrative chinks, but — the Despot be praised — that never seems to happen. Great story-telling.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Dangerous excess mars late liaison

Geoff Brown reviews Milos Forman's *Valmont*, plus *The Two Jakes*, *Point Break*, *Hangin' with the Homeboys*, *K2* and *Switch*

When Milos Forman's film *Valmont* (15, Lumière) was released two years ago in Europe and the United States, audiences were hard to find. Having supped so recently on Glenn Close and John Malkovich in *Dangerous Liaisons*, most people felt disinclined to watch the same story with different actors. But now that Stephen Frears' Oscar-winner is drifting into memory, *Valmont*—inspired by Laclos's original novel of sexual intrigue, rather than Christopher Hampton's play—finally appears in Britain.

If *Dangerous Liaisons* won the first battle over audiences, *Valmont* wins the beauty contest. Miroslav Ondricek's images shimmer with plush interiors, manicured scenery and rapturous light that seems to have escaped from a Watteau painting. Every item is high quality: silk shirts by Tirelli; chateaux by the French aristocracy; production design by Pierre Guffroy, a master conjuror of cinematic space.

But beauty brings perils along with delights, especially in a costume drama, where humans can easily become lost among the wigs, parols and period flummery. Forman doubles the risk by his unusual approach to Laclos's venomous characters. Where Malkovich's Vicomte undertook his seduction of the worthy Madame de Tourvel with lizard eyes and a Beelzebub leer, Colin Firth is the perfect gentleman: charming, guileless, almost bland. Where Glenn Close, as the Marquise de Merteuil, sat icily spinning a web to deflower the teenage virgin Océle, Annette Bening gurgles with youthful mischief. They may be monsters in their actions, but Forman treats them with loving kindness.

Such kindness nips much potential drama in the bud: these seductions seem just youthful indiscretions. At first Bening (then with few film appearances to her name) appears like a creature on fire, eyes and smile blazing. But her character fails to grow or darken: by the end, she has smiled ten times too often. *Valmont*, the



Perilously beautiful costume drama: Annette Bening, gurgling with mischief as the Marquise de Merteuil in Milos Forman's *Valmont*

in a crime passionnel, Madeleine Stowe is a suspiciously gleeful widow. The plot gets nowhere sensible, but there are three earthy, quippy, quirkish galore and period songs. Something for everyone, except those expecting another *Chinatown*.

"Goddamn adrenalin junkies", mutters the poor woman who passes as the love interest in *Point Break* (15, Odeon West End), Hollywood's latest macho beach-fest. But what can the girl expect? Thrill-seekers populate the film: there is surfing, sky diving, bank shoot-ups, chases. Thrill-seekers made the film: *Terminator* maestro James Cameron served as executive producer, and squeezed all the sensitivity from his talented

director, Kathryn Bigelow. A quartet of bank robbers, the Ex-Presidents, fall under FBI surveillance. Beneath the masks of Reagan, LBJ, Carter and Ford lie Californian surfers: the tan line on a bare behind exposed in a bank's security video apparently says it all. So Keanu Reeves, boringly cocky FBI agent, goes undercover, and off the film lurches into narrative gobbledygook, surfing, and the spiritual utterances of a tanned guru (Patrick Swayze).

Most of America's new black cinema has been too busy cultivating a furrowed brow to bother with jokes. *Hangin' with the Homeboys* (15, Cannon Haymarket) is the exception: a bouncy, optimistic comedy-drama from young Puerto Rican director Joseph B. Vasquez, following the fortunes of four South Bronx "homeboys" in search of Friday night fun.

Fun proves elusive. They get booted from a party, crash their car, and lose assorted illusions about women and their own identities. There are some overly broad, comic-strip strokes, but also much pleasure in the dialogue and sharp performances from Doug E. Doug and Mario Joyner.

More news from abroad. In *K2* (15, Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue, MGM Trocadero), Patrick Meyer's theatrical two-hander about mountaineers trapped on a Himalayan ice ledge is pumped up into a handsome but redundant movie, with an expanded cast chattering

BRIEFING

Nothing sacred?

FOR the first time, a film crew has been allowed into Lenin's office in the Kremlin. The film, *Stalin*, directed by Ivan Passer for Home Box Office, began production in Moscow but then moved to Budapest after the coup against Gorbachev. Subsequently, Russian officials close to Boris Yeltsin invited them back.

Stalin is played by Robert Duvall and Lenin by Maximilian Schell, with Joan Plowright cast as the mother of Stalin's first wife. Schell, incidentally, claims that he walked through Moscow's GUM department store in full Lenin make-up without being recognised—though that, of course, may say something about the quality of the make-up.

Growing old

A NEW phase in the plan to return Brighton's Regency splendours to their former glory is underway. Work began this week on the Royal Pavilion gardens, aiming to restore their 1820s appearance. John Nash, the architect of the Royal Pavilion (which has now emerged from its own £10 million restoration), conceived of the pavilion and its gardens as a unity. Much research has recently been done by the horticulture historians in an attempt to ascertain which species of plants would have been stocked in the gardens during George IV's time.

Last chance...

AFTER John Lee Hooker's sensational return to the limelight, the latest blues veteran to come in from the cold is Buddy Guy. Seen in typically barnstorming mode at Eric Clapton's Albert Hall concert earlier in the year, the effusive and influential 55-year-old guitarist from Chicago now boasts an appeal that extends well beyond the blues purists. Final dates of his tour are: Birmingham Town Hall (021-236 2392) tonight; Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061-834 0943) tomorrow; Edinburgh Playhouse (031-557 2590) Saturday; and Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (041-332 6633) Sunday.

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre, Dance and the St Petersburg Philharmonic



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RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Ladies to the last

The meeting of Sir Georg Solti, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Strauss's *Four Last Songs* may seem improbable, but it is by no means an unhappy one. Solti's robust, even gassy way with Strauss's opulent score has a bracing effect on Te Kanawa's Straussian languor. Knocked into no uncertain rhythmic shape, the voice is liberated to be its true self, conveying the passing moods and seasons of these songs: the wonder-filled, ecstatic breath of spring, for example, or summer's late laughter.

Every flicker of instrumentation glints out of Decca's characteristically clear, unadorned acoustic. With an ardent "Beim Schlafengehen" given muscle by a particularly sinewy solo which sees Solti and Te Kanawa positively striding off into the sunset, this may not be one of the most spine-tingling *Four Last Songs* on disc, but it is certainly one of the most challenging.

Solti then turns pianist in 13 songs, including Strauss's very last, "Malven". As one might expect, he is a lively partner in dialogue. Te Kanawa's voice is not always his equal in either strength or sophistication.

By contrast, Bernard Haitink seems to have a moderating effect on Jessye Norman in her *Mahler Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*. The voice is given time and space



Jessye Norman deeply introspective Mahler

enough for a slow, deeply introspective reading which is nevertheless closely detailed and finely scaled. Norman frames the songs of love and loss with a dirge-like lament and a funeral march of a finale; few visions strike such terror in the heart as her "Ich hab' ein glühend Messer".

Haitink's *Mahler Six* is a model of clarity: clarity of playing, of recording, and above all, clarity of insight into the fact that this is Mahler's pivot work *par excellence*. The balance of texture and tempo which Haitink brings to the work expresses his own emotional balance, poised between a leaning back into nostalgia and a dizzying momentum into the future. The backward glances are of the lightest, the most elusive: a near Brucknerian chastity for

the little wind chorale, bows barely touching strings for the Andante's melody.

The sheer imagination and skill of the same Berlin players marks out a new *Mahler* 1 from Claudio Abbado. Both his and Tennstedt's new recording with the Chicago Symphony, are live performances, but the Abbado has a presence which the Tennstedt lacks. As the *Fahrenden Gesellen* songs echo over into the symphony, Abbado creates a sense of ecstatic simplicity in the light, springing tread of the violins and the particular purity of the woodwind; and his refulgent light at climax points makes Tennstedt's players sound coarse by comparison.

Where Abbado conjures the immediate sensation of spring in the bristling staccato and tender trio of the second movement, Tennstedt seems to view the scene from an already distanced memory. With Abbado, we are with Mahler the child, watching the mystic rites of Pan: with Tennstedt we are already looking back, watching sweetness turn to sentiment and the parody carry with it both the weight and the bite of bitterness.

HILARY FINCH

ART MARKET

Right way to a family fortune

A proposed European law would drastically alter the fortunes of artists' heirs, but at what cost? Sarah Jane Checkland reports

The fine art world is about to be turned upside-down, if the bureaucrats in Brussels get their way. As part of its efforts to harmonise copyright law, the European Commission is today discussing the principle of *droit de suite*. It is a concept, unknown in Britain, whereby whenever an art work is sold, royalties are due to the artist or his or her estate.

Droit de suite already operates in Germany and France—where, following the rule that descendants are allowed to collect three per cent, FF9 million (£920,000) was paid to Picasso's heirs in 1989, following the sale of his painting *Les Femmes d'Alger* by the Paris auctioneers Binche Godeau. Other European countries with such legislation include Belgium, Italy and Denmark.

But as Robin Fry, an art law specialist, points out in *The Art Newspaper*, many of these countries have either failed to implement the legislation, or the royalty payments are negligible. This week's hearing is expected to result in a draft directive, followed by a full Council directive, and then possibly a new European law.

But as John Sankey, secretary of the Society of London Art Dealers, says, how does one define "artist" for the purpose of setting up a payments system? "How do you keep track of it all?" he asks. In practice, it will not be the deserving garret-dwellers who will benefit, but those artists who have already made their fortune. Or it will be "heirs": another term difficult to define.

The French law was originally designed to assist the



Pablo Picasso: his heirs have set a precedent

benighted widows of artists after the first world war. But one of its main beneficiaries in recent years has been Jean Fabris, who is the heir of Maurice Utrillo despite having a tenuous connection with the artist.

He met Utrillo's widow, Lucie Valore, in 1960 when she was in her eighties and he was a radio producer, soon becoming her "devoted secretary". After her death he became sole legatee, entrusted with her memory and that of my Utrillo.

Fabris has assiduously pursued London and Paris auctioneers through the courts for reproducing works by Utrillo without obtaining his permission. In his case against the Paris auctioneer Guy Lormier, for example, the courts decided against Fabris, and an appeal court upheld this ruling in March 1989. But Fabris won a separate case later that year, when his opponents were Sotheby's and Christie's—though that decision has also been referred to the Court of Appeal in Versailles.

However, the biggest argument against *droit de suite* is that it would be a nightmare to administer, were it enshrined in European law. Unlike music or literature, art works often change hands surreptitiously, with no official record of the transfer. "Does it apply to shop sales, private transactions, or what?" Sankey asks.

Each country that has established *droit de suite*, he maintains, has had to set up a quango to run it. "The cost of administration swallows up the income."

There is also the fear that resale royalties would frighten away the contemporary art market to countries where it does not apply. As things stand, lawyers are already milking the differences in *droit de suite* law within Europe. That is demonstrated by the Beuys case, in which the widow of the German conceptual artist Joseph Beuys is suing Christie's for refusing to

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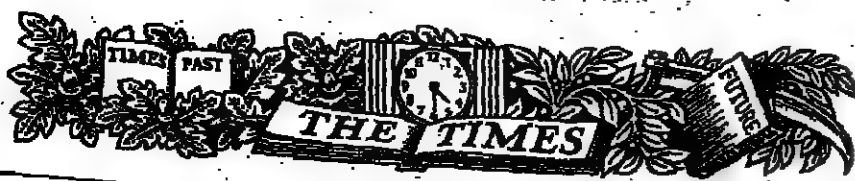
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Terry Waite has had his moment of glory. His return to Britain on Tuesday and his masterful televised speech at RAF Lyneham were greeted with a 600-megawatt surge in electricity demand, a sign of national emotion usually associated with royal weddings and cup finals. But there is a question mark over this triumph which two days of unrestrained adulation cannot banish.

For nearly five years the media has voluntarily centred its references to Terry Waite. It refused to publish or broadcast material concerning his links with the Iran-contras conspirators which might have put his life in greater danger. The public was offered only a selective version of events. Mr Waite's return to freedom has burst the journalistic dam. The public may be taken aback by what it now learns.

Iran-contras was an American conspiracy in the mid-1980s to sell weapons to Iran at inflated prices, passing the profits to right-wing guerrillas in Nicaragua. In return, step by step with this traffic, Iran was to instruct its Shia militia proxies in Lebanon (known by the generic name Hezbollah) gradually to release American hostages.

The conspiracy was contrary to American and international law and has been the subject of extensive criminal proceedings. It may well have prolonged the horrific Iran-Iraq war. Even within Lebanon, this traffic was contrary to morality and sound policy since it bartered with hostages, thus rewarding and therefore encouraging hostage-taking. Certainly, hostage releases associated with Mr Waite's name were, contemporaneous with the seizing of new ones. The evil went on; he too was its victim.

At the heart of this traffic was Colonel Oliver North, an officer of the US National Security Council. He has admitted using Terry Waite as a "crucial" element in his arrangements. For instance in 1985 and 1986 Colonel North arranged the secret sale of arms to Iran to buy freedom for two American hostages, Benjamin Weir and Father Lawrence Jenko. Disclosure of the real reason for their release would have exploded the conspiracy; there had to be a story to tell the world.

With Mr Waite on the scene — or brought there at short notice — their release could be represented to an admiring Western public as the result of his humanitarian efforts. It

must now be said that this was merely a cover story. Apart from the Iran-contras conspirators, the one person who surely must have known at the time that their release was not due to his efforts was Mr Waite himself. Father Jenko has now also admitted that Mr Waite had nothing to do with his freedom. Mr Waite clearly knew Colonel North: they met, according to the BBC's *Panorama* programme, at least 20 times. The colonel even visited Lambeth Palace and was present at a meeting with the archbishop. In the Middle East, Mr Waite accepted American transport and communications, and kept in touch with American contacts.

When details of the Iran-contras gun-for-hostages deal first started to become public at the end of 1986, however, Mr Waite declared himself "astonished". How much did he already know, or how much should he have suspected? At the time of their release, why did he think the hostages were being freed, and why did he allow their release to be attributed publicly to his own intervention, if he knew this was not so? Was he simply duped by Colonel North? Was he just carried away? Were others in the church, in Britain or the United States, even more closely implicated with Iran-contras than he was? And had the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr (now Lord) Runcie, completely lost control of Mr Waite's activities?

On the last point, Lord Runcie has virtually admitted as much. He pleaded with Mr Waite not to return to Beirut, as did the British Foreign Office. Mr Waite was clearly told that his visit could do no good, while his capture would endanger others who might have to seek his release. The late John Lytle, who spent his last years frantically trying to secure Mr Waite's release, was known to have become deeply depressed and exasperated by what he had discovered of his colleague's activities.

The answers to none of these questions can diminish Mr Waite's bravery, nor his fortitude in captivity. Mr Waite is said now to be anxious to clear the air, for his own sake and for that of the Church of England. The just and dignified way of meeting this need would be for the church to appoint an independent panel to investigate the facts, interview all available witnesses, and publish its findings.

MR SHEVARDNAZDE'S RETURN

Few figures from the pre-coup Soviet leadership command as much respect in the outside world as Eduard Shevardnadze. In his bid to reassert his authority in the changed circumstances of the post-coup Soviet Union, President Gorbachev is gradually reassembling the liberal team with which he was once surrounded. Douglas Hurd rightly greeted the news of Mr Shevardnadze's return by praising his "judgment, experience and courage". Few will forget Mr Shevardnadze's warning of a putsch at the time of his resignation nearly a year ago, or his witness for democracy at the side of Boris Yeltsin when the prophecy came to pass. His action helped to turn the tide against the plotters.

More debatable is Mr Hurd's assertion that the reappointment of Mr Shevardnadze is proof of Soviet determination "to demonstrate continuity in foreign affairs in a transitional era". The Soviet Union is indeed in transition: it is unlikely to survive in its present form much longer. Economic, political and even military power is shifting to the republics. By bringing back Mr Shevardnadze, Mr Gorbachev is seeking to show he remains a force to be reckoned with in foreign affairs.

Before the coup, however, he was responsible for giving ground to conservative forces and allowing liberals like Mr Shevardnadze to be sidelined. Since the coup he has sought to manage the transition to a new form of democratic federation, but with such mixed results that he was barracked at yesterday's session of the Soviet parliament. One of his reasons for recalling Mr Shevardnadze was the prospect of a revolt at the Soviet foreign ministry over the disarray prevailing there.

SWAMPED BY SURVEYS

British Social Attitudes, whose eighth report is published today, is the Rolls-Royce of opinion surveys: wide, solid and designed to last, if a little sedate. The road onto which it ventures is an increasingly crowded one. In the slow lane crawl the heavyweight studies of the more academic social researchers. Down the fast lane speed the streamlined polls carried out by Gallup, Harris, Mori and their kin for the media.

In and out of the traffic weave lesser vehicles designed for public relations purposes. The catering firm craving column inches need only commission a survey of school eating habits. A pressure group for, say, the disabled, can be certain that a survey will confirm that the public wants more spent on disability.

This year's volume shows that certain established trends continued. Under Margaret Thatcher, more and more people gazed at the public services. Under Mrs Thatcher, however, it ceased to be the Thatcher view that the government must ensure full employment. So Mr Major has some chance of winning the election despite high and rising unemployment.

Support for the health service is maintained, so the prime minister has to show it is safe in his hands. Confidence in its performance has been eroded, so he is

disarray prevails in all Soviet institutions as the old order crumbles. Mr Shevardnadze's appointment does little more than mask a growing void in Soviet foreign policy, from trade and arms control to regional policies. Meanwhile power shifts remorselessly to Mr Yeltsin. Today he will be received in Bonn, with most of the honours due to a head of state.

At least two of the hottest foreign policy issues — negotiations with Japan over the Kurile Islands, and the fate of the former East German leader Erich Honecker — are already in Mr Yeltsin's hands. Mr Shevardnadze's appointment may help Mr Gorbachev to restore dwindling Western confidence. But between them they cannot restore the Soviet Union as it was a year ago.

The republican leaderships are inexperienced in foreign affairs and ignorant of the ways of international diplomacy. Mr Shevardnadze can show them the ropes. And as he does so, it would be wise of the West to start dealing with the new leaderships on a range of issues: trade, food aid, and even in the case of republics such as the Ukraine and Kazakhstan, security and nuclear control.

Mr Shevardnadze is thought to favour a new form of federation in which Russia and other republics would exercise autonomy, with a co-ordinated foreign policy. But it is by no means sure even that degree of federalism will be retained. The longer the West postpones dealing directly with the republics, the greater will be the ground to be made up if and when the Soviet Union no longer exists even in name. The real transition the new Soviet foreign minister has to manage is one which may well result in the extinction of his very office.

pressed to reform it. It is almost as if Britain's government is now conducted by opinion poll. The Opposition is no better.

The rise and rise of the survey is a post-war phenomenon. But surveys did have a historical forerunner. The speeches of pre-political politicians are littered with references to "the country"; what it wants and does not want, what it will or will not stand for. The survey is today's equivalent.

Is this change for the better? Opinion polls are scientific. The major polling organisations take pains to get it right. The techniques of sampling are applied with scientific rigour. Where survey results are checkable against reality — for example in their predictions of election results — they have generally proved reliable. This is more than can be said for assessments of national sentiment by politicians, which tend hopelessly to confuse what public opinion is with what they would like it to be.

But more science means less art. Few polls measure salience, how important an issue is felt to be. In assenting to a pollster's question, the public may be reflecting its deeply held opinion. Or it may never have thought about the matter before, and never intend to think about it again. It may be knowledgeable about the subject, or it may be entirely ignorant. All surveys should be taken with a generous pinch of salt. Governments should treat them as they should treat experts: always on tap but never on top.

Implications of Waite 'bargain'

From Mr Lionel Bloch
Sir, We have every reason to rejoice at the release of Terry Waite and Tom Sutherland, but no reason at all to treat their return to freedom as a major event.

As you point out in your leader (November 19) "Nations left out in the cold will clutch at any inhumanity, any injustice, as a bargaining counter". But bargaining counters only exist because, in our weakness, we are prepared to bargain.

By using United Nations proxies, we have abandoned our commitment not to deal with terrorists and have played into the hands of the forces of injustice and inhumanity. In the eyes of Iran, hostage-taking by their surrogates has paid handsome dividends.

We may have succeeded in freeing a few innocents but by courting and supplicating unsavoury tyrants, we have paid a terrible price, not merely in terms of rehabilitating rogue regimes but, above all, in encouraging future hostage-taking.

Was there another way? Whilst an Entebbe solution might have been too risky, there was nothing preventing us from imposing drastic sanctions against those ultimately responsible. This alternative seems hardly to have been considered.

With former victims ready to forgive their tormentors and Western governments unwilling to take direct drastic steps to defend their nationals, we may soon witness another open season for hostage-taking.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH,
9 Wimpole Street, W1.

From Mrs Helga Harrison
Sir, Your report today compares Mr Waite's performance on arrival at RAF Lyneham with that of the other hostages, who, you say, "welcomed the TV lights, somehow as if they were lesser men. May I suggest that this does them an injustice. To be reluctant to make a show of one's emotion hardly deserves to be regarded as "willing" or less admirable.

I suspect there are others besides myself who were more deeply touched by Mr Sutherland's unhyphenated bubbling joy than Mr Waite's eloquent comparison of his tribulations with those of John Bunyan.

Yours truly,
HELGAR HARRISON,
Courtlands, 3 Westfield Lane,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.
November 20.

From Mr Daniel Zinkin
Sir, Why do Mr Terry Waite and Professor Thomas Sutherland both thank Syria and Iran profusely for their efforts in procuring their own release? Why do they thank countries which not only harbour terrorists but in some cases support and even protect them? I am glad, however, that Thomas Sutherland recognised the role Israel had played and thanked the Israelis suitably.

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL ZINKIN,
16 Amos Grove, Southgate, N14.

From Mr Derek Bratt
Sir, Until I saw Terry Waite and Tom Sutherland cracking jokes about their incarceration, I never understood the term "grace under pressure".

Yours in wonderment,
DEREK BRATT,
26 Windsor Road,
Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire.

Voting conditions

From Mr Cedric Price
Sir, I read (report, November 14) that in the election by MPs of the Conservative backbench European affairs committee "People were jostled and some nearly knocked over as MPs shouted for ballot papers. Some had several in their hands at once and Norman Tebbit at one stage climbed onto a table to say that many MPs were still without the means to record their votes". You also report that "the voting figures are kept secret".

Can this be the same party that introduced the most stringent legal conditions for major elections in trade unions?

Yours sincerely,
CEDRIC PRICE,
38 Alfred Place, WC1.

Fusion power

From Professor Lewis Lesley
Sir, Professor Sir Hermann Bondi (letter, November 14) is right to question the benignity of fusion power. Without decrying the undoubted technical and intellectual achievement which the recent demonstration at Jet (Joint European Torus) of fusion power represents, similar claims were being made in the early 1950s about fission power.

The real issue is that the money spent on developing fusion power for the future is not being spent on reducing the waste of energy at the present. In the UK motor vehicles waste nearly 80 per cent of the fuel consumed, conventional power stations 70 per cent, buildings 50 per cent. The money spent on nuclear R & D could have insulated every building in the UK to a Scandinavian standard and saved more energy than has so far been generated by nuclear power.

Let us first reduce today's waste, which will also reduce pollution and greenhouse gases, and stretch fossil fuel reserves further into the future. Then we should develop renewable energy, e.g., harnessing a perfectly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Amateur musicians who seek the professional touch

From the Managing Director of the Royal Academy of Music

Sir, I have recently heard the London Symphony Orchestra under Rostropovich and, two days later, the Northern Baroque Orchestra — a band of happy players not much known outside its native home of Rochdale.

In the new debate on the future of musical priorities in Britain ("Missing the music makers", leading article, November 15) it will be important not to separate the professionals and amateurs as somehow being at odds. They both make a unique contribution to our cultural life and should never have to vie with each other for public funds.

Most importantly, they both rely on music conservatoires for their reservoir of talent and we, too, share the concerns over the decline in instrumental tuition and singing in our schools.

Not everyone who leaves here will be a Pavarotti, but they will all have the potential to bring endless enjoyment to others, plus an enrichment of their own lives through performance, be it in the Barbican, EC2, or the Gracie Fields Theatre, Rochdale.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. MADDAMS,
Managing Director,
Royal Academy of Music,
Marylebone Road, NW1.

From Sir Yehudi Menuhin
Sir, Your leader illuminates the dire contrast between support of the professional sector of music with the almost total lack of support for the amateur. I heartily agree. The highest standards cannot survive without the broadest foundation among our millions — a fact well understood and implemented in the field of sport, where this axiom is self-evident.

Our present obsession with the end-result at the expense of the prolonged process is exemplified by the manifold competitions intent on plucking and exposing ever younger and brighter flowers and fruit (not always the most fragrant and modest) or by proclaiming the "definitive" performance or solution.

At a time in which widespread leisure and energy are exploding into boredom and violence, might not time and money be saved on the futility of prisons and reformatories by creating a multitude of craftsmen in the arts and sciences?

England, so long the exemplar of all that represents the amateur in its fundamental significance, has fallen prey to an artificial and ill-conceived myth that would separate the amateur from the professional. The

one is the outgrowth of the other's health.

More strength to the new Voluntary Arts Network, and from the trombones a rousing fanfare.

Yours etc.,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
4 & 5 Primrose Mews,
Regent's Park Road, NW1.

From Mr Michael C. Dougherty
Sir, The Music Industries Association, which has existed for 70 years, has always believed that music education is essentially a practical subject. Twenty years ago we founded the National Festival of Music for Youth, out of which, in association with *The Times Educational Supplement*, grew the Schools Prom. Hundreds of thousands of young people have taken part in these practical music-making events, drawn from every area of Britain.

We believe that with the right guidance, good teaching and the necessary resources, all children can develop practical musical skills. More than ten years ago, we identified the need for teacher-training at primary level and sponsored a national programme of training for primary school music consultants at Reading University.

This government has urged industry to actively participate in education. We have done so and look forward to the full implementation of the proposals for music within the national curriculum, to include practical tuition for all.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL C. DOUGHTY,
(Chairman, Education Committee),
Music Industries Association,
7 The Avenue, Datchet,
Slough, Berkshire.

From Mrs Barbara Humble
Sir, Until recently, the Bath Society of Young Musicians, which has been in existence for 22 years, had 300 members of all abilities under 21 years of age. However, Avon Education Authority now charges those children in the society who attend independent schools (one third of the membership) £77.50 per term, (as opposed to £15.50 for those in Avon-maintained schools).

The result is that the society has lost 75 of its 100 independently educated children. A previously happy and successful Saturday morning music group, where children from all walks of life came together to make music and friendships, has been thrown into division and turmoil.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA HUMBLE,
7/9 Woolley Street,
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

Britain and the PLO

From Sir Dennis Walters, MP for Westbury (Conservative)

Sir, Following his visit to Israel David Baker (letter, November 18) voices strong disapproval of the suggestion that British ministers should talk with the PLO. He is wrong about this. By formally accepting United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 and by rejecting the use of violence in 1988, Mr Arafat and the PLO adopted the policy that successive British governments had been urging upon them. They did so in spite of Israel's continuing occupation of Arab territory in defiance of successive UN

resolutions and its illegal settlement programme.

The distinguished Palestinians who presented their country's cause at Madrid were widely and understandably praised for their tolerance, good sense, moderation and willingness to compromise. They are, however, loyal to the PLO leadership and we should recognise that the PLO moderates made the conference possible. It would be both sensible and right if we talked to them at ministerial level.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WALTERS (Chairman,
Conservative Middle East Council),
House of Commons,
November 19.

Repossessed homes

From the Director of Shelter

Sir, The housing minister, Sir George Young, says (letter, November 15) that the government is implementing a "battery of measures" to help owner occupiers at risk of homelessness because of mortgage difficulties.

Shelter fears that this year alone as many as 100,000 households could lose their home. Despite Sir George's claim, no measures have succeeded in stemming this rising tide. One key explanation for this is that the government is persisting with a system of support for housing costs which no longer reflects the changing reality of employment patterns and the increase in owner occupation among lower-income groups.

Many of the families in danger of repossession are two-earner households who face difficulties because one of the wage earners has become unemployed. Their income has dropped but not low enough to

claim income support. If they were paying rent they could be eligible for housing benefit but there is no equivalent source of help for owner occupiers. The main form of support for mortgage costs — mortgage interest tax relief — gives no special help to lower-income households and, indeed, the bulk of the tax relief is spent on supporting the mortgages of higher earners.

It is time for government to grasp the nettle of reform and bring together the hotch-potch of support for housing costs — income support, housing benefit and mortgage tax relief — into a coherent and better targeted system of housing payments. If the government is serious about preventing further homelessness it should begin the process of modernising this increasingly anachronistic part of our social security and tax system.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA McKECHNIE, Director,
Shelter,
88 Old Street, EC1,
November 16.

safe fusion reactor 96 million miles away, before spending millions to build a sun on Earth.

Yours sincerely,
LEWIS LESLEY,
Liverpool Polytechnic,
School of the Built Environment,
Mount Pleasant Buildings,
98 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 2.

From Professor J. D. Dowell, FRSE
Sir, Jet has nothing to do with the Higgs meson, so why link them (Nigel Hawkes' article, "Back to the bunsen", November 15)? Fusion research is aimed at providing a clean, plentiful energy source in several decades' time, when others are likely to be exhausted. The amount spent on the research in Europe to date is the cost of a couple of days' oil imports. This seems an appropriate scale by which to judge the level of investment.

As for the new particle accelerator at the CERN laboratory in Geneva, it is not demanding more resources from the UK as Mr Hawkes sug-

gests, but only a continuation of the present budget level. Furthermore, the cause of the crisis in the Science and Engineering Research Council this year was not Cern, but mainly the failure of the government to allow the proper rate of inflation on the science budget.

His argument that a branch of science should be stopped because it seems to explain everything sufficiently well for most purposes has also proved false on several occasions in the past. In particle physics, the main open question is the origin of mass, which may or may not be explained by the Higgs meson.

Surely the origin of mass is a piece of basic science worth knowing, particularly as we can find out without increasing the cost of research. This is not to dispute the need for more funds for science overall, which have fallen by 20 per cent as a proportion of the GDP over the last ten years, incidentally with particle physics taking a decreasing share.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. DOWELL,
The University of Birmingham,
School of Physics and
Space Research,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

From Mrs Gillian F. Earl

Sir, It surely makes sense for all children to be taught music using the most beautiful of instruments — the human voice — which is free of charge. The result would be happier children whose musical appreciation would always be active, not passive, for they would understand the language of music.

Orchestral instruments could still be put into the hands only of those shown to be the most likely to benefit from learning to play them: limited resources would thus be put to far more effective use.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN F. EARL (Chairman,
British Kodály Academy),
Heathercliffe, Sennen,
Penzance, Cornwall.
November 16.

From Mr Andrew Clark
Sir, Two years ago I was privileged and, I might say, proud to give a paper to a French national association for music education whose delegates were keen to learn about what they saw as a successful model for instrumental teaching in the UK. Today I would be reluctant to accept such an invitation and, however good the delivery, I doubt if there would be the same enthusiasm. Pride clearly still comes before a fall.

Yours still proud to be British,

ANDREW CLARK
(Tutor for music),
Doncaster College,
High Melton Hall,
Doncaster, South Yorkshire.
November 18.

On the slide

From Mr Peter Spaul

Sir, Marius Carboni (letter, November 17) should not decry the trombones. He has the advantage over us non-players, who in later years have to learn the use of our slide-arm in order to bring into focus the letters column of your newspaper.

Yours truly,
PETER SPAUL,
25 The Spinney, Parkgate,
South Wirral, Cheshire.

From Mrs J. G. Palmer
Sir, I was intrigued by Richard Morrison's account of the versatility of the trombone. He did, however, overlook one point: for the Germans the final fanfare is played, not by the trumpet but by the *letzte Posaune* — the last trombone.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY PALMER,
18 Pinecroft, Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire.

Training engineers

From Mr Dennis Highton

Sir, With great respect I would wish to take issue with the Astronomer Royal's suggestion (letter, November 14) that following a physicist's PhD in astronomy it would be sensible for such a person to gain a foothold in manufacturing engineering by taking a "short, sharp engineering course".

Engineering is as much an art as a science and to become an engineer (and gain the just respect) it is vital to have an innate aptitude, proper training and understanding. His choice of Brunel and Whitbread are ample examples of this.

We must train from an early age and properly use such people soon if we are to survive. We are after all traditionally good at it.

Sincerely,
D. HIGHTON,
Jasmine Cottage,
Rollstone Road,
Shrewton,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Holidays for trees

From Dr Norman Myers

Sir, Your November 13 editorial, "Holidays for trees", proposes that fossil fuel-burning communities of industrialised nations should engage in compensatory tree planting to offset their carbon dioxide emissions.

You may care to note that the Applied Energy Services corporation in the United States has undertaken to fund the planting of 52 million trees in Guatemala to offset the carbon dioxide emissions from its new coal-fired electricity plant; and The Netherlands government is to finance tree-planting projects in 1,000 square miles of South America to balance out similar emissions from two new electricity plants.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MYERS,
Upper Meadow,
Old Road,
Headington, Oxford.
November 19.

Shrinking world

From Mr Alan J. Davidson

Sir, I recently received a communication from a football pools company which advised me encouragingly that, last year, there were some really big wins not far from where I live.

They revealed the identities of these fortunate near-neighbours of mine as "Mr Clancy from Mauritius" and "a lady from overseas".

Yours faithfully,
ALAN J. DAVIDSON,
Green Braces, Lamancha,
West Linton,
Fifehire,
November 18.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 38

ITV

- 6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily**
- 9.25 **Schools**
- 12.00 **The Parliament Programme.** A round-up of business from both Houses
- 12.30 **Business Daily.** News and analysis from the world's money markets
- 1.00 **Sesame Street.** Award-winning early learning series
- 2.00 **Film: A Royal Scandal (1945, b/w)** starring Tallulah Bankhead and Philip Eythel. Lush and enjoyable farce about the phlegmatic of the Russian empress Catherine the Great who draws a handsome young officer into her court intrigues. Directed by Otto Preminger and Ernst Lubitsch
- 3.45 **The Further Adventures of the Ugly Duckling.** Jannik Hastруп's animated version of what happened after the duckling went to live with the swans
- 4.00 **A Brush With Art.** The second of a 12-part learn-to-paint series presented by Alwyn Crawshaw. Today - how a figure can be created in three simple strokes and a tree in leaf in a couple of sweeps
- 4.30 **Fifteen-to-One.** Fast-moving general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart (s)
- 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show.** Today's guests are all brothers of stars. They include Eric Douglas, brother of Michael; Joey Travolta, brother of John; and Patrick Swayze's brother Don
- 5.55 **Willie the Wisp.** Animated adventures set about two time-trapped scientists
- 6.00 **The Time Tunnel.** Classic sci-fi series about two time-trapped scientists. In this episode they end up in 6th-century England and meet Merlin the magician
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zennah Badawi. (Teletext)
- Newsline**
- 7.50 **Comment**
- 8.00 **Free For All.** Residents of the Blackford Estate near Oxford give their account of what happened during the recent "riots" on the estate and give their version of the sensationalised accounts of poynding
- 8.30 **Bagdad Café.** Assembly line comedy series, based on the cult film of the same name, set in a remote desert diner and starring the lovely Jean Stapleton. (Teletext) (s)



Amundine? Garry and Sandra Quirke (9.30pm)

- 9.00 **Minder: The Coach That Came in From the Cold.** Arthur attempts to become a member of the local golf club as an interview by DS Morley convinces him a police transport coach at a bar is a trap. Arthur's initial reluctance is dispelled when he has a vision of Daley's Tours for the holidaymaker. The last in the present series (Oracie)
- 10.00 **News at Ten** with Trevor McDonald and Alastair Stewart. (Oracie)
- Weather 10.30 **Thames News** and weather
- 10.40 **The City Programme** examines the second tranche of the BTL offer
- 11.10 **G1.** Chris Bonington reviews Franc Roddam's new film **K2** and there is a report on the new play **The Cabinet Minister**, starring Maureen Lipman (s)
- 11.40 **Prisoner** Cecil Black H. Drama serial set in an Australian work remission centre
- 12.30 **Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Suzy Smith and Michael McNally present television's version of the newspaper personal column
- 1.00 **The Men Who Killed Kennedy.** The last of three programmes examining the assassination of President Kennedy
- 2.00 **Films To Watch This Week.** **Shogun** starring Anne Gaa. **Beethoven** Fresson and Hardy Krüger. **Skilful** French drama about the trauma of a family after their ten-year-old daughter is kidnapped. Directed by André Cayatte
- 4.00 **The Twilight Zone: The Cold Equations.** A tale of the supernatural in which a woman stows away in a spacecraft
- 4.30 **America's Top Ten** (r) (s)
- 5.00 **Videofashion.** Styles from around the world (r)
- 5.30 **Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Suzy Smith and Michael McNally. Ends at 6.00

9.00 Secret History: Unquiet Graves. A CHOICE: Tonight's historical commentary comes from a western Ukraine and concerns charges and counter-charges about a succession of atrocities perpetrated in that unhappy region. During the 20 years up to 1939 the area was part of Poland. The Soviet armies which invaded in 1939 were seen as liberators. The Soviet enthusiasm was misplaced, in two years 2½ million people died. This enthusiasm was misplaced, in two years 2½ million people were murdered or deported to Siberia. The dead were buried in mass graves, officially denied by Soviet propaganda. The bodies of Ukrainian were finally retrieved at the expense of lives of Lvov local. MacGueren's film shows the atrocities. The bodies of Lvov local are as remains of mankind. The atrocities are brought to the surface. Stalin was not the only villain. The Nazis later carried out atrocities, while Ukrainians themselves caught the habit during ten-year guerrilla war against the Red Army.

10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Lively and topical comedy series set in London, starring Robert Duncan, Haydn Gwynne and Neil Pearson (8).

10.30 Love Talk presented by Carolyn Marshall. Audrey and Mark, a couple who live happily together, but have found family opposition because she is black and he is white (8).

11.00 LA Law. A repeat run of the second series of the glossy American legal drama (7). (Teletext).

11.55 A Week in Politics presented by Vincent Hanna and Alan Rawnsley. Includes a report on the two-day debate in Strasbourg on the Maastricht negotiations; and how the debate was seen by members of the European parliament. Ends at 1.25am.

TYNE TEES: As London except

[illegible]

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RADIO 4

<p>(n) Stereo on FM 5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, Int 6.36, 7.00, 7.30 Today, Int 6.58 6.55, 7.25 Weather 7.25, 8.55 Sport 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.55</p> <p>8.00 News 9.05 Puritan 9.45 As the Unknown See Us 10.00 News 10.10-10.30am Sex, Lies and Audiences (LW only): Today's Today, Fourth of six comedies by Simon Booker (s) (c) 10.30 News: An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.15 The Bible (LW only): Judges 10.30 Woman's Hour: Jenni Murray 10.45 to the photo-journalist Eve Arnold as she prepares for her exhibition at the London Portrait Gallery 11.00 News From Our Own Correspondent 11.20 News: You and Yours, with 12.25pm 12.30pm 12.35pm John Heddle: The return of the piano game in which chairman Tim Brooke-Taylor 12.40 News: which pianist is telling the latest story. In the first of nine programmes, the guests are Johnny Morris, Ray Cooney and Frank Thornton (c) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (F) 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News: out, 2.05 Somewhere. 2.05 News: out, 2.05 Somewhere. 2.10 News: out, 2.10 Somewhere. 2.15 News: out, 2.15 Somewhere. 2.20 News: out, 2.20 Somewhere. 2.25 News: out, 2.25 Somewhere. 2.30 News: out, 2.30 Somewhere. 2.35 News: out, 2.35 Somewhere. 2.40 News: out, 2.40 Somewhere. 2.45 News: out, 2.45 Somewhere. 2.50 News: out, 2.50 Somewhere. 2.55 News: out, 2.55 Somewhere. 3.00 News: out, 3.00 Somewhere. 3.05 News: out, 3.05 Somewhere. 3.10 News: out, 3.10 Somewhere. 3.15 News: out, 3.15 Somewhere. 3.20 News: out, 3.20 Somewhere. 3.25 News: out, 3.25 Somewhere. 3.30 News: out, 3.30 Somewhere. 3.35 News: out, 3.35 Somewhere. 3.40 News: out, 3.40 Somewhere. 3.45 News: out, 3.45 Somewhere. 3.50 News: out, 3.50 Somewhere. 3.55 News: out, 3.55 Somewhere. 4.00 News: out, 4.00 Somewhere. 4.05 News: out, 4.05 Somewhere. 4.10 News: out, 4.10 Somewhere. 4.15 News: out, 4.15 Somewhere. 4.20 News: out, 4.20 Somewhere. 4.25 News: out, 4.25 Somewhere. 4.30 News: out, 4.30 Somewhere. 4.35 News: out, 4.35 Somewhere. 4.40 News: out, 4.40 Somewhere. 4.45 News: out, 4.45 Somewhere. 4.50 News: out, 4.50 Somewhere. 4.55 News: out, 4.55 Somewhere. 5.00 News: out, 5.00 Somewhere. 5.05 News: out, 5.05 Somewhere. 5.10 News: out, 5.10 Somewhere. 5.15 News: out, 5.15 Somewhere. 5.20 News: out, 5.20 Somewhere. 5.25 News: out, 5.25 Somewhere. 5.30 News: out, 5.30 Somewhere. 5.35 News: out, 5.35 Somewhere. 5.40 News: out, 5.40 Somewhere. 5.45 News: out, 5.45 Somewhere. 5.50 News: out, 5.50 Somewhere. 5.55 News: out, 5.55 Somewhere. 6.00 News: out, 6.00 Somewhere. 6.05 News: out, 6.05 Somewhere. 6.10 News: out, 6.10 Somewhere. 6.15 News: out, 6.15 Somewhere. 6.20 News: out, 6.20 Somewhere. 6.25 News: out, 6.25 Somewhere. 6.30 News: out, 6.30 Somewhere. 6.35 News: out, 6.35 Somewhere. 6.40 News: out, 6.40 Somewhere. 6.45 News: out, 6.45 Somewhere. 6.50 News: out, 6.50 Somewhere. 6.55 News: out, 6.55 Somewhere. 7.00 News: out, 7.00 Somewhere. 7.05 News: out, 7.05 Somewhere. 7.10 News: out, 7.10 Somewhere. 7.15 News: out, 7.15 Somewhere. 7.20 News: out, 7.20 Somewhere. 7.25 News: out, 7.25 Somewhere. 7.30 News: out, 7.30 Somewhere. 7.35 News: out, 7.35 Somewhere. 7.40 News: out, 7.40 Somewhere. 7.45 News: out, 7.45 Somewhere. 7.50 News: out, 7.50 Somewhere. 7.55 News: out, 7.55 Somewhere. 8.00 News: out, 8.00 Somewhere. 8.05 News: out, 8.05 Somewhere. 8.10 News: out, 8.10 Somewhere. 8.15 News: out, 8.15 Somewhere. 8.20 News: out, 8.20 Somewhere. 8.25 News: out, 8.25 Somewhere. 8.30 News: out, 8.30 Somewhere. 8.35 News: out, 8.35 Somewhere. 8.40 News: out, 8.40 Somewhere. 8.45 News: out, 8.45 Somewhere. 8.50 News: out, 8.50 Somewhere. 8.55 News: out, 8.55 Somewhere. 9.00 News: out, 9.00 Somewhere. 9.05 News: out, 9.05 Somewhere. 9.10 News: out, 9.10 Somewhere. 9.15 News: out, 9.15 Somewhere. 9.20 News: out, 9.20 Somewhere. 9.25 News: out, 9.25 Somewhere. 9.30 News: out, 9.30 Somewhere. 9.35 News: out, 9.35 Somewhere. 9.40 News: out, 9.40 Somewhere. 9.45 News: out, 9.45 Somewhere. 9.50 News: out, 9.50 Somewhere. 9.55 News: out, 9.55 Somewhere. 10.00 News: out, 10.00 Somewhere. 10.05 News: out, 10.05 Somewhere. 10.10 News: out, 10.10 Somewhere. 10.15 News: out, 10.15 Somewhere. 10.20 News: out, 10.20 Somewhere. 10.25 News: out, 10.25 Somewhere. 10.30 News: out, 10.30 Somewhere. 10.35 News: out, 10.35 Somewhere. 10.40 News: out, 10.40 Somewhere. 10.45 News: out, 10.45 Somewhere. 10.50 News: out, 10.50 Somewhere. 10.55 News: out, 10.55 Somewhere. 11.00 News: out, 11.00 Somewhere. 11.05 News: out, 11.05 Somewhere. 11.10 News: out, 11.10 Somewhere. 11.15 News: out, 11.15 Somewhere. 11.20 News: out, 11.20 Somewhere. 11.25 News: out, 11.25 Somewhere. 11.30 News: out, 11.30 Somewhere. 11.35 News: out, 11.35 Somewhere. 11.40 News: out, 11.40 Somewhere. 11.45 News: out, 11.45 Somewhere. 11.50 News: out, 11.50 Somewhere. 11.55 News: out, 11.55 Somewhere. 12.00 News: out, 12.00 Somewhere. 12.05 News: out, 12.05 Somewhere. 12.10 News: out, 12.10 Somewhere. 12.15 News: out, 12.15 Somewhere. 12.20 News: out, 12.20 Somewhere. 12.25 News: out, 12.25 Somewhere. 12.30 News: out, 12.30 Somewhere. 12.35 News: out, 12.35 Somewhere. 12.40 News: out, 12.40 Somewhere. 12.45 News: out, 12.45 Somewhere. 12.50 News: out, 12.50 Somewhere. 12.55 News: out, 12.55 Somewhere. 1.00 News: out, 1.00 Somewhere. 1.05 News: out, 1.05 Somewhere. 1.10 News: out, 1.10 Somewhere. 1.15 News: out, 1.15 Somewhere. 1.20 News: out, 1.20 Somewhere. 1.25 News: out, 1.25 Somewhere. 1.30 News: out, 1.30 Somewhere. 1.35 News: out, 1.35 Somewhere. 1.40 News: out, 1.40 Somewhere. 1.45 News: out, 1.45 Somewhere. 1.50 News: out, 1.50 Somewhere. 1.55 News: out, 1.55 Somewhere. 2.00 News: out, 2.00 Somewhere. 2.05 News: out</p>
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Survival of the Fittest: The
WWF Wrestling Challenge
Special 2.00pm NFL Am

[illegible]

Report 11.00
1.00pm 24 Hours - City
2.00 Eurobles 2.50 For

comes a
NH, Ice Hockey 8.00 WWF
European League Round-Up 7.00 Rio
International Woman's Tennis 10.00
NFL Today 11.00 Sky Soccer
League Round-Up 12.00 Woman's Tennis

EUROSPORT

• Via the Astra satellite.
9.00pm Tradition Iron Man Heward 8.00
Europeans Abroad 2.30 Benetton Sport
Landscape 3.00 Tannite 5.00 Equestrian
Dressage 6.00 Motorworld News
Cycling 7.00 Time World Sport 8.00 Lufbo
Meridian 8.30 Eurosport News 8.00 Foot
Tennis European Championships 10.30 Car
Racing RAC Rally World Championship Lac
Previews 11.30 Eurosport News

SCREENSPORT

• Via the Astra satellite.
7.00am Eurocup 7.30 Ladies Pro Bowlers

Flms 3.00 French Rugby League
Eye Evening 6.00 Powerboats 6.00
Wre Football 7.00 Preview of 1981
Championships 8.00 Maccie Wm
6.00 Spanish Football 10.30 Japen
12.00 European Snow Jumping
French Horse Racing

LIFESTYLE

• Via the Astra satellite.
10.00am The Great American G
10.50 Croquet Brian 10.55 Brien
out 11.35 Nov 11.40 12.00
12.00 12.30 12.35 Live Pz 12.
For Tomorrow 12.30 Lifestyle Plur
Platcher's Lifestyle Garden 2.15
Friends 3.50 The New Break 4.00
Chinatti 4.30 The Great
Gamechess 10.35 Ladies of t
Famous 8.00 The Sea-Vision
Programme 10.00 Settle Juice



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Leading The Early 30 Derek Jamieson
10 Anne Rodden
11 The Queen, including the
ren in a Continued 24-Hour
with a Continued 30-411 and 07-43
100am Steve Madden

hour until 7.00pm
Newstalk 8.50
10.5 to 12.5 2.3-4.5
11 to 1.00 News Update
2.30 World Service
4.35 News at 4.15
6.00 News 6.30 Vibe
7.00 News
10 Eastern Base, incl

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Gold Endowment Savings

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**TODAY IN
BUSINESS**

SID AGHA



Sid, the mythical British Gas shareholder, is agitated with the government's handling of the company. Robert Evans, chairman, reports results today. Page 29

LOOKING GOOD

Courtauld's, which cast off its textiles interests last year, added to its recent strength with a rise in half-year pre-tax profits from £87.1 million to £96.4 million. Prospects are looking good. *Tempos, page 28*

MORE BOTTLE



Chris Haskins, of Northern Foods, took on Britain's biggest milkround when he bought Express Dairy and Eden Vale from Grand Metropolitan. Page 27

SLOWER RISE

Heavy competition in the bread market limited Rank Hovis McDougall to a 14.6 per cent improvement in pre-tax profits to £150 million for the year to end-August. Annual dividend rises from 12.74p to 13.36p. *Tempos, page 28*

RED WITH ENVY



Jozsef Antall, prime minister of Hungary, has delivered political and economic stability that are the envy of other post-communist governments. Pages 34-35

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7950 (-0.0017)
German mark 2.8774 (+0.0036)
Exchange index 91.2 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1898.2 (+10.4)
FT-SE 100 2472.6 (+9.5)
New York Dow Jones 2946.78 (+15.21)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23199.86 (-127.00)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10 1/2%
3-month Interbank: 10 1/2%
3-month Treasury: 10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate: 7 1/2%
Federal Funds: 4 1/2%
3-month Treasury: 4 1/2%
30-year bonds: 10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £1 7950
DM 2.8774
Sfr 2.5491
FF 6.5536
Yen 129.76
Index 91.2
ECU 1.7950
SDR 1.7950
London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM 362.55 pm 362.60
30-day 30-day 30-day 30-day
New York: COMEX 363.35-363.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) 52.70 bbl (\$20.55)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.1 October (1987=100)
Denotes monthly trading price

MGN shares soar on Packer speculation

Bankers forced to meet over Maxwell family

By ANGELA MACKAY AND NEIL BENNETT

THE Maxwell family's fragile personal finances appeared close to collapse yesterday, forcing its bankers to arrange a meeting of some 25 banks early next week to help fend off the threat of receivership.

The meeting, which will be led by National Westminster Bank, was deemed necessary after Swiss Bank Corporation said it wanted repayment of a £55 million loan to Headington Investments, a pivotal family company.

Shares in Mirror Group Newspapers, in which the family owns a 51 per cent holding, soared to a post-float high of 128p as speculation circulated that Kerry Packer, the Australian media owner, was interested in buying a majority stake in the company. MGN shares ended up 12p at 126p, compared with the flotation price of 125p.

Mr Packer, who has cash resources of more than \$1 billion (£439 million), is interested in buying more media assets both in Australia and overseas. He and Conrad Black, proprietor of The Daily Telegraph, have bid jointly for the Fairfax newspaper group in Australia. That deal, however, was referred last week to domestic regulators.

A spokesman for Swiss Bank said that it had not set a deadline for repayment but it wanted the situation to be resolved in the next few weeks. "It would be quite wrong to start rejecting alternatives, but we cannot let the situation run on indefinitely," he said.

The spectre of receivership depressed the value of Maxwell Communication Corporation's shares, forcing them to a low of 31p before closing at 36p, down 10p. MCC is vulnerable to swings in the family's fortunes as more than half of its 68 per cent stake has been pledged as collateral for family debt and as the value of those shares plummeted, so does the value of the collateral.

Kevin Maxwell, the chair-

man of MCC and also of Headington, met with his family's lawyers and bankers last night to try to devise a plan that would soothe the market and satisfy jittery bankers. A statement was expected last night.

The family has been under immense personal and financial pressure since the death this month of Robert Maxwell, the group's founder and former chairman. Exacerbating problems was the announcement this week by the Serious Fraud Office that it had begun an investigation into the Swiss Bank loan to Adviser (188), a wholly owned subsidiary of Headington.

Swiss Bank, which is also owed \$100 million by MCC, is continuing to talk to Headington and other banks about possible solutions. "We will not act precipitately," the spokesman said.

Swiss Bank demanded repayment of the loan two weeks ago, when Headington's advisers told the bank that it could not deliver the shares from the First Tokyo Index Trust, which were intended to act as security. This placed the loan into immediate default.

Other banks said that Swiss Bank's action was justified considering Headington's failure to meet the agreement. "We will try to smooth their ruffled feathers or come to some other arrangement," one bank said. As a last-ditch alternative, Headington's other banks could agree to provide an unsecured loan to

it to repay Swiss Bank and save the company from administration or receivership.

The Maxwell family's bankers are hopeful that if this conflict can be resolved, they can still keep the private companies afloat. Unlike other large businesses, which have been hit by debt problems, the Maxwell companies have less than 25 banks. Bankers are confident that they can stabilise the Maxwell family's private companies if they can overcome this latest emergency. Most of the banks used by the Maxwell family have expressed support for the various companies. Many banks are owed more than £100 million and want to see all the public and private companies remain going concerns to give them a better chance of recovering their loans.

All four of Britain's high street banks have a substantial exposure to the Maxwell family's interests. NatWest is perhaps the greatest and is likely to act as the lead bank in any negotiations about reorganising the debt.

Barclays is owed almost £200 million. More than two-thirds is secured and most is due from Mirror Group Newspapers, the most stable part of the empire.

Midland is a main creditor. While Samuel Montagu, its merchant banking subsidiary, is advising the Maxwell family on its business interests.

Lloyds is the lead banker on a £170 million loan to Headington, which until this week was secured on a 30.3 per cent stake in MCC. The collapse in the MCC share price has prompted Lloyds to begin talks about finding alternative security for the loan.

Until the dispute with Headington, Swiss Bank had one of the closest relationships with the Maxwell family. Two years ago it helped to arrange a \$3 billion syndicated loan to MCC for the acquisition of Macmillan and the Official Airlines Guide in America. The bank is still owed \$100 million on the loan.

Packer wants more assets

Comment, page 29



Flat sales: Sam Whitbread reporting a profit fall of £10.3 million yesterday

Bad debts dent Whitbread

By MARTIN WALLER

THE big banks are forcing hundreds of public houses up and down the land out of business because of the fall in property prices, according to Whitbread, the brewing and retailing group facing rising bad debts as a result.

Pre-tax profits for the half-year to end-August of £142.5 million, down £10.3 million on last time, contain a £6 million provision to cover bad debts to the free trade. Last year, the total bad debt provision was £8 million, and Peter Jarvis, the Whitbread chief executive, said the full-year figure this time would probably be higher.

Whitbread is raising its interim dividend from 4.30p to 4.55p despite the first profits fall in 16 years. Sam Whitbread, the chairman, said: "In the circumstances I believe these results are

satisfactory, even creditable." Mr Jarvis said the company began the financial year with the relief that the Gulf war and the bad winter, both of which hit the trade, were over, but that relief soon evaporated. The group was hurt by the bad spring weather, a rise in duty in the Budget and the recession, which combined to send the British beer market down 7 per cent in the half-year.

The outlook for bad debts had worsened significantly in recent weeks, to the extent that Whitbread had felt it right to warn shareholders. It lent substantial amounts to free trade public houses in the Eighties, when property values were high, as did the £300 million of loans outstanding to the free trade.

The banks secured their lending against property val-

ues, which have slumped in the public house market as elsewhere. As publicans who had overextended themselves fell behind with interest, the banks pulled the plug.

The loans from the brewers were linked to agreements to take their beer and ranked behind the banks in terms of their call on the assets. Whitbread estimates hundreds of free houses it supplies and has lent money to have gone bankrupt recently as the banks' attitude toughened.

Brent Walker has confirmed that it is to "acquire an interest" in 750 public houses currently owned by Allied-Lyons, the drinks group. In return, Allied has agreed to buy 50 managed houses from Brent Walker.

Tempos, page 28
Comment, page 29

Weak figures reflect reluctance to spend

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

PERSISTENT weakness shown in official money figures for October suggest that companies and consumers remained sceptical about the economic outlook and preferred to repay debts rather than take on more.

The credit element was much weaker than expected. Coming the day after disappointing economic growth figures for the third quarter, the Bank of England data reinforced City fears that a technical recovery would be difficult to sustain without an increase in borrowing to match the reported improvement in confidence.

Despite renewed assurance from Treasury officials that the government would do "whatever was necessary" to defend it, the pound remained at the bottom of the exchange-

rate mechanism. No sign of a recovery in the pound was detected. At 5pm, sterling had slipped to DM2.8764 from Tuesday's DM2.8778 close, having hovered just above DM2.87 at its weakest.

While broad money growth, as indicated by the Bank's M4 measure, slowed from an annual 6.5 per cent in September to 6.3 per cent in October, M4 lending produced a rise of only £1 billion in October, against the £2.9 billion forecast. In September, it rose by £800 million.

In the latest three months, the annualised rise in M4 lending was 2.8 per cent, its slowest since the third quarter of 1975.

M0, the narrow money measure, grew 0.2 per cent in October after annual growth of 2.6 per cent, up from 2.3 per

cent in September. The Treasury stuck to its forecast of 0.75 per cent growth in the second half of this year. Alan Budd, chief economist at the Treasury, told a parliamentary select committee that the growth forecast would be confirmed when all data were available.

British Bankers' Association figures showed a small rise in lending in October. Lending for house buying was up £408 million, but there was a £259 million repayment on lending "for consumption", including a £56 million repayment of credit-card debt.

Orders received by the construction industry fell 6 per cent in the third quarter to stand 9 per cent below last year's third quarter.

Discount on BT likely to be 15p

By OUR CITY STAFF

FRANCIS Maude, the financial secretary, is today expected to announce that retail buyers of British Telecom in the forthcoming sale of part of the government's holding will pay 15p a share less than the financial institutions.

Today is so-called discount day in the BT sale, when the government will indicate the price of the first instalment. First indications were of a discount in a 10p to 20p range off what institutions eventually pay, with the government opting on a middle course.

Mr Maude is expected to reveal a price of 125p for the first instalment to the institutions. The result of their tender offer will determine the value of the third instalment in March 1993. The first instalment price to the public, therefore, should be 110p.

Post Office welcomes competition paper

Europe delivers postal sort-out

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE European Community is likely to maintain member states' core postal monopolies, but will open up other areas to increased competition in a radical revision of the laws governing postal services across Europe.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, chairman of the Post Office, said yesterday that the EC's long-awaited green paper on postal services was now expected at the end of the month, and would mark a significant victory for those, like the PO, keen to see greater competition in postal services.

The green paper, which is likely to be considered by telecommunications ministers meeting on December 5, is expected to define a common set of standards on price, weight, speed of delivery and services to customers. It is

expected to include provision on:
□ Monopoly. EC countries should keep their core, or reserve, monopolies, with the exact definition of a maximum monopoly based probably on a combination of price, as in Britain, and weight, as in France, determined by a working group within 12 months.
□ Subsidy. Subsidies should be phased out, with non-competitive services no longer supported by the reserve monopoly.
□ Competition. Non-reserve areas should be subject to competition, especially in value-added services - for example, recorded delivery.
□ Parcels. Member states could be required to provide parcel services. Britain does so for commercial reasons.
□ Counters. Postal services could be required to take in at counters parcels

being carried by a competitor, such as Federal Express, TNT or Securicor.
□ Measurement. International services could have to measure their service quality from the start to the end of service provision.

The Post Office reckons businesses should benefit from improved prices. It also believes that it already either meets or surpasses the standards likely to be laid down by Brussels. It released figures yesterday showing that on service, Britain delivers 86 per cent of mail by the following working day, compared with 74 per cent for The Netherlands, 68 per cent for Germany and 65 per cent for France, while on price, the 24p cost of a 20gm letter in Britain compares with 42p in Denmark, 37p in Italy, 35p in Germany and 25p in France.

EC holds the key, page 29

Three go in Bupa shake-up after losses

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THREE key executives have left Bupa in a management shake-up after losses of £63 million incurred by the health insurance division last year.

Mike Smith, managing director of the health insurance division, Peter Reeves, the division's finance director, and Frank Levene, director of community business, left last week. Bupa, the largest provider of private health insurance, would not say if they received payoffs, saying this was a private matter.

Peter Jacobs, Bupa's chief executive since May, is taking charge of the division for a limited period. He will be assisted by Philip Anderson and Peter Garrad-Cole. Mr Jacobs said: "To succeed in achieving our objective of making the health insurance division more efficient, competitive and customer-oriented, it is necessary to reorganise the structure."

Mr Jacobs added that the changes did not affect Bupa's health services division or the operations of its hospitals. He said Bupa was a sound organisation with reserves of about £300 million.

Bupa, along with other health insurance companies, has been hurt by the recession. A sharp increase in claims coupled with a rapid rise in medical costs caused Bupa's health insurance division to lose £63 million last year. Bupa had to transfer more than £42 million from its reserves after profits on its health services and private hospitals were taken into account. This was the first time since 1981 that the organisation had called on its reserves.

Bupa said: "The very big increase in claims was in part due to the recession. Some people in company schemes had made claims in anticipation of redundancy so that they can use up their benefit."

Lord Wigoder, Bupa's chairman, said in the annual report that at the beginning of last year corporate sector subscriptions "proved to have been set at too low a level". Bupa has about 50 per cent of the private health market.



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Rights issue underpins £359m purchase from GrandMet

Northern buys Express Dairy

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

NORTHERN Foods is buying the Express Dairy and Eden Vale food interests of Grand Metropolitan for £359 million, and financing the acquisition by means of a £227 million rights issue. The deal makes Northern the largest deliverer of milk to homes in Britain.

Northern is issuing 56.7 million new shares in a one-for-four rights issue at 41.5p. The issue has been underwritten by N M Rothschild.

Chris Haskins, Northern's chairman, said the nervousness of the stock market this week had caused the directors some concern but he added that the industrial logic and value for shareholders had convinced them they were right to go ahead. After initially falling 19p to 488p, the shares recovered to end the day up 19p at 526p.

Northern also announced its results for the six months to end-September, which showed an increase in profits in all divisions. Pre-tax profits rose 16.5 per cent to £5.2 million, sales rose 15.5 per cent to £556 million, earnings per share rose 17.5 per cent to 18.3p and the interim dividend is up 14.2 per cent to 6.85p.

The £359 million purchase price includes £25 million of debt and £8 million of tax liability. The businesses being acquired, which include the Ski brand, have net assets of £97 million and Mr Haskins said the rights issue was to cover the £229 million of goodwill.

After the deal, Northern's gearing will be 58 per cent.

Northern is reasonably confident that the deal will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission despite its 24 per cent share of the fluid-milk market.

As a result of the acquisition, Northern will operate, directly and indirectly around 6,000 milk rounds, delivering to roughly 3.6 million households. Northern has plans to franchise the Express milk rounds.

Mr Haskins said that there was scope for rationalisation of the merged business, but he added that no decisions had yet been taken about cutting jobs. Northern employs 22,000 and Express Dairies about 6,000.

Grand Metropolitan, which saw its shares rise 1p to 827p, said talks were taking place with several parties over the sale of Express Ireland, which analysts believe could fetch £100 million.



Scope for rationalisation: Chris Haskins, of Northern Foods

Blue Arrow adviser 'changed rules'

By OUR CITY STAFF

ADVISERS to Blue Arrow, the employment agency, "changed the rules of the game" at the close of its record £837 million cash call in 1987, it was alleged yesterday.

It was claimed that as part of a rescue package to turn failure into success, advisers ignored the deadline of the rights issue before buying stock. Martin Gibbs, former

head of corporate finance at UBS Phillips & Drew Securities, the broker, told an Old Bailey jury that advisers took a "broader view" before saving the deal.

It is alleged that advisers misled the market by secretly boosting the subscription of issue shares after the close of the cash call from 38 to 49 per cent, and also bought into the subsequent placing to present

the failed issue as a success. Mr Gibbs maintains advisers decided to invest millions in the issue in the best interests of Blue Arrow, shareholders, and underwriters, as failure would have meant a fall in the share price.

He said in the "new world" of the City after Big Bang, advisers had the capital backing to become investors as well. Nicholas Purrell, QC,

leading the prosecution in the long-running fraud trial, said that advisers had "simply ignored the close of the rights issue" at 3pm on September 28, 1987.

Mr Gibbs denied the rules were changed, but he added: "I simply cannot see why if you do something at five to 3 o'clock, you cannot do it at five to 9 o'clock."

The trial continues today.

Lilley seeks Williams assurances

By MATTHEW BOND

PETER Lilley, the trade secretary, said that Williams Holdings' £700 million bid for Rascal Electronics will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, unless Williams agrees to undertakings relating to competition in the British locks market.

Despite the wording, Mr Lilley's ruling has been welcomed by Williams and its advisers, who are expected to press the Takeover Panel today to restart the bid's timetable immediately. The panel suspended the bid on day 37.

Williams owns Yale, the number two lock supplier in the UK market, while Rascal owns Chubb, Britain's biggest supplier. However, Williams undertook to sell the UK operations of Chubb at the bid's outset and later agreed it would also sell Union Parkes, a commercial locks supplier owned by Rascal.

Williams is optimistic the necessary undertakings can be agreed with the Office of Fair Trading, although a statutory ten-day consultation period prevents any final agreements being signed before November 29.

Williams said the sale of Chubb UK and Union Parkes, would represent the loss of less than 25 per cent of Rascal Security's worldwide turnover of £650 million and about 10 per cent of Rascal Group's turnover. Rascal said the statement was misleading because Williams would be required to sell the locks and safes business of Rascal Security worldwide, accounting for 30 per cent of Rascal Security's sales.

Brittan fails to stop cash aid for Air France

From TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan was narrowly defeated yesterday in his bid to prevent the French government injecting Fr2 billion into Air France, the state carrier. Nine of Sir Leon's 17 commission colleagues, the minimum needed for approval, voted in favour of the state aid.

Heavy lobbying in favour of the cash by Sir Leon's Belgian colleague Karel Van Miert, the transport commissioner, probably saved the day for Air France and prevented another major showdown between the British competition commissioner and the French government.

Relations between Sir Leon and Paris are only just getting back to their normal state of frost after the De Havilland case, which earned the commissioner national opprobrium in France as a wrecker of state interests. Mr Van Miert, who earlier this year persuaded the commission to approve state aid to Sabena on the grounds that it was the Belgian airline's last chance, used a similar argument to convince his colleagues on the Air France payment.

In a statement, the commission characterised the Fr2 billion as a "normal financial transaction" that would have won the approval of private investors in normal market conditions.

The commission also noted that Air France's losses and overall debt had mounted as a



Sir Leon: defeated

result of the Gulf War traffic slowdown, just at the time it was trying to integrate its most recent purchases, Air Inter and UTA.

Air France made a loss of Fr1.16 billion in the first six months of the year, compared to Fr262.8 million a year earlier. The loss was less than that of British Airways and about the same as those of KLM, American Airlines and Lufthansa. Air France is wholly state-owned, but the state-owned Banque Nationale de Paris took a Fr1 billion stake in the carrier in July.

The state injection and the BNP stake are part of a three-year plan by Air France to raise Fr5 billion in fresh capital to keep its debts in line.

Sir Leon wants all state subsidies to the airline sector curbed, to allow smaller carriers to establish a niche in the EC market.

Omani deal vital for Vosper

By MARTIN BARROW

VOSPER Thornycroft faces a tense wait until the Omani navy confirms that it wants the British warship builder to supply two corvettes. Agreement has been reached in principle but detailed contract negotiations have yet to be concluded.

The order is of vital importance to Vosper, given the Royal Navy's decision to indefinitely postpone orders for another seven minihunters

that were expected to be built by the company.

Vosper is working on its penultimate minihunter for the Royal Navy and is seeking more work overseas to bridge the gap expected before the next Royal Navy orders emerge, which could take up to two years.

Similar vessels are being built for Saudi Arabia through the al-Yamamah off-arms defence project. A second

minihunter was launched in May with a third to be launched in December next year. However, funding for a fourth vessel has proved difficult to arrange, partly because of the financial difficulties of British Aerospace, the prime contractor of the al-Yamamah project.

Vosper reported yesterday pre-tax profits of £7.1 million (£6.1 million) for the six months to end-September and earnings of 15.5p a share, up from 12.9p. The interim dividend rises to 4.1p (3.5p).

Turnover was £74.8 million (£63.2 million), with 60 per cent attributable to exports. The value of work in hand was £350 million (£400 million at the last year-end).

During the period, the company continued its policy of expanding non-defence activities with the acquisition of Van Dusen and Meyer, an American manufacturer of yacht stabilisers, for \$1.9 million, and PDL Aircraft Support. However, talks leading to the takeover of another company were aborted.

Thomson up in third quarter

Thomson Corporation, the publishing, information and travel group, reported third-quarter net income of \$194 million, against \$190 million.

Net income for the first nine months of 1991 was down from \$302 million to \$209 million. \$50 million of the fall was attributed to a new accounting requirement to amortise publishing rights and circulation.

Capital loss

Capital Radio has taken a £2 million loss on a 20 per cent stake in Century, an Irish radio station that closed this week. Capital's full-year figures will be announced next Wednesday. The shares lost 1p to 189p.

Barrick deal

American Barrick Resources, owner of the Goldstrike mine, Nevada, plans to raise \$511.3 million via a "bought deal". It will offer for sale in Canada and Europe four million shares at \$52.825 each. The cash will be used for debt repayment and acquisitions, and to develop Goldstrike.

Forward back

Pre-tax profits at Forward Group, which makes printed circuit boards, halved from £408,000 to £203,000 in the six months to July 31. Earnings per share fell from 3.6p to 1.9p but the interim dividend is maintained at 1p.

Saab down

Saab-Scania, the Swedish aircraft and car maker, reported a fall in income to 2.03 billion crowns (£190 million) for the first nine months of the year, compared with Kr2.72 last time.

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Dr. Irving Selikoff, a world-renowned specialist in occupational health, said that this study added 'substantial authority' to concerns about the health risks of screens. Although the evidence is not conclusive, experimental work in this area continues.

In fact, in Europe the degree of concern is such that from 1993 the EC is insisting that radiation from computer screens

is reduced to negligible levels. One manufacturer has already gone that far. And further. EIZO.

As the name suggests, it's a Japanese company. And its screens are turning out to be remarkably popular throughout the world.

Perhaps it's simply because EIZO screens have been proved to emit the very lowest levels of the type of radiation that is believed to be potentially harmful.

In recent tests by the safety-conscious Swedish government, for example, only a handful of manufacturers satisfied their tough new standards at both low and high resolution.

EIZO was one of them.

Which is good news for anyone who's using an EIZO. And even better news for the next generation.

Sources: AmJLH&M 17 080-106 (1988); EuroScreening, 12/91; S. Selikoff, D. S. Smith (1989); VDT Health Study; Leg. 1982; Swedish National Authority Board for Measurement and Testing; MPR 11/1/1991.

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Losses double at Parkland Textile

By MARTIN BARROW

LOSSES at Parkland Textile (Holdings), the wool textile group, increased from £517,000 before tax to £1.37 million in the half-year to the end of August as the recession tightened its grip on the industry.

The company, which suffered early in the economic downturn, said it had experienced a noticeable increase in the volume of orders being placed, and budgeted sales levels had been exceeded in two consecutive months.

But the confident statement on current trading failed to enthuse investors and Parkland's ordinary shares and A

shares fell 3p to 156p and 88p respectively.

respectively. Last year's comparable results included exceptional reorganisation costs of £520,000, which indicates that the underlying position deteriorated more than is suggested by the pre-tax figure. The company is reducing the interim dividend from 1.5p a share to 1p, which must be paid from reserves. The loss per share was 13.4p (4.7p loss).

Turnover fell £3 million to £24.6 million and reduced volumes caused lower trading profits of £304,000, down from £906,000.

COURTAULDS is a notable success story, and the run that has taken the shares up by 25 per cent over the past year does not seem to be over yet.

In November 1989, Courtaulds successfully moved off its textile interests into a separate company; it has carried out various complementary restructuring exercises and has ambitions of a greater Far Eastern presence that should soon turn into a reality. This all suggests that Courtaulds as a speciality materials group is settling into its stride.

Interim pre-tax profits rose to £96.4 million, against £87.1

million, and the operating margin improved from 9.1 per cent to 10.2 per cent, on turnover hardly changed at £968 million (£947.8 million). That should look considerably stronger when the world's economies start to move decisively out of recession.

The positive impact on profits will be seen especially in the divisions closest to the consumer. Improved spending patterns will benefit Courtaulds' packaging, coatings and performance materials divisions.

Courtaulds' capital-intensive sectors (fibres and films, where operating profits rose from £24 million to £38 million, and chemicals) might take longer to benefit from improved world trade, though chief executive Sipko Huisman is determined to achieve further margin improvement.

Courtaulds' financial structure still looks good. Last year's cover is tight enough, the ratio of new debt to capital employed is 34 per cent; and the group, though ruling out mega-deals, is not averse to sensible add-on acquisitions.

A cash injection, possibly between £30 million and £40 million, is likely soon as negotiations to sell parts of the fine chemicals division are completed. A joint venture merger of the group's acetate yarn interests with those of Snia, of the Fiat group, is likely before Christmas.

Pre-tax profits could reach £200 million (£186 million) this financial year (to March 31), and at 476p, up 3p, the shares are trading on 12.5 times earnings. On 1993 pre-



Intent on margin growth: Sipko Huismans and finance chief Richard Lapthorne

tax profit hopes of £230 million, the p/e ratio eases to 11.

Despite the share price run, and looking ahead, Courtaulds still looks attractive.

Whitbread

season by drawing attention to the vexed problem of bad debts. Whitbread's interim figures, showing pre-tax profits down to £142.5 million from £152.8 million, also come as a useful reminder that it is not only the high street that is pinning all hopes on a good Christmas.

For Whitbread, a promising August and September turned out to be a false dawn; October

trade was very quiet and indications for November no better. Given the traditionally slack trading in January and February, the next six weeks are crucial.

Year-end figures will probably bear £15 million of provisions in respect of bad debts as well as reflecting what has so far this year been the worst performance of the British beer market since 1948.

Whitbread has languished largely friendless this year, the shares underperforming the market by more than 10 per cent. The company is a pure brewing and retailing play with particular exposure to the hard-hit Southeast. It is about half-way through a planned public house sell-off programme to comply with the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission ruling but will have to keep about 1,000 outlets unprofitably free of the

Pre-tax profits should be about £266 million this year, leaving the shares on a forward multiple of about ten times' earnings. Any recovery from this low rating relative to Guinness and Grand Metropolitan will depend heavily on consumer spending, so the shares have their attractions only to investors who are prepared to bet on the jungle Christmas cash tills.

RHM
SIR James Goldsmith, he always cast a long shadow, a shareholders in Ranks Hovis McDougall are discovering w their cost.
It is over nine months since

Sir James placed his 28.5 per cent stake in RHM at 300p. Yesterday, even after a 13p rise, the shares closed at 245p, stubbornly still displaying all the symptoms of chronic indigestion.

A cure for the condition is not obvious. Milling and baking may have seen another fall in its contribution, but it still accounts for 41 per cent of RHIM's pre-tax profit. Despite the launch of Hovis White and similar innovations in the Mothers Pride range, it is difficult to see how the company can bring an early end to the bread price war.

Against this background and the economic climate, a 14.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £150 million looks creditable, although earnings per share (up 5 per cent to 29.5p) and total dividend (up 4.9 per cent to 13.36p) improved more modestly.

But still, with its core business under pressure, those nagging doubts remain. Has the company made enough of the £200 million generated by disposals in 1990? Small bottom acquisitions and capital expenditure has already seen net cash decline from £105 million to £78 million. With the company seemingly making heavy weather of furthering its European ambitions, there is the danger of missing the boat altogether.

The reduced opportunities for making below the line provisions could make matching this year's performance hard. Assuming profits of around £145 million, the shares are on a multiple of under 9. Undemanding but probably fairly rated.

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No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Amesbury	Chemicals	
2	BP	Transport	
3	Cheniere	Industrial	
4	BP	Building	
5	United Tech	Industrial	
6	EMAP	Chemicals	
7	MTM	Chemicals	
8	Vale	Electrical	
9	Stewart Corp	Electrical	
10	BT	Industrial	
11	London	Industrial	
12	Haworth	Industrial	
13	Coast Vella	Drugs	
14	Alcan	Industrial	
15	Gesener	Industrial	
16	Wyle	Industrial	
17	Rockwell	Industrial	
18	BT	Industrial	
19	Colson	Industrial	
20	Samuel	Industrial	
21	Samuel	Industrial	
22	Samuel	Industrial	
23	Samuel	Industrial	
24	Samuel	Industrial	
25	Samuel	Industrial	
26	Samuel	Industrial	
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42	Samuel	Industrial	
43	Samuel	Industrial	
44	Samuel	Industrial	

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Price	Change	%
1	Bank of Scotland	100.00	0.00	0.0
2	Bank of Ireland	100.00	0.00	0.0
3	Bank of London	100.00	0.00	0.0
4	Bank of Montreal	100.00	0.00	0.0
5	Bank of North America	100.00	0.00	0.0
6	Bank of New York	100.00	0.00	0.0
7	Bank of Paris	100.00	0.00	0.0
8	Bank of Spain	100.00	0.00	0.0
9	Bank of Sweden	100.00	0.00	0.0
10	Bank of Switzerland	100.00	0.00	0.0
11	Bank of the Netherlands	100.00	0.00	0.0
12	Bank of the West	100.00	0.00	0.0
13	Bank of the East	100.00	0.00	0.0
14	Bank of the South	100.00	0.00	0.0
15	Bank of the North	100.00	0.00	0.0
16	Bank of the West	100.00	0.00	0.0
17	Bank of the East	100.00	0.00	0.0
18	Bank of the South	100.00	0.00	0.0
19	Bank of the North	100.00	0.00	0.0
20	Bank of the West	100.00	0.00	0.0

BREWERIES

No	Company	Price	Change	%
1	Adnams	100.00	0.00	0.0
2	Beck's	100.00	0.00	0.0
3	Carlsberg	100.00	0.00	0.0
4	Guinness	100.00	0.00	0.0
5	Heineken	100.00	0.00	0.0
6	King	100.00	0.00	0.0
7	Labatt	100.00	0.00	0.0
8	Miller	100.00	0.00	0.0
9	Samuel Smith	100.00	0.00	0.0
10	Tottenham	100.00	0.00	0.0
11	Watney	100.00	0.00	0.0
12	Windsor	100.00	0.00	0.0

BUILDING, ROADS

No	Company	Price	Change	%
1	Amesbury	100.00	0.00	0.0
2	BP	100.00	0.00	0.0
3	Cheniere	100.00	0.00	0.0
4	BP	100.00	0.00	0.0
5	United Tech	100.00	0.00	0.0
6	EMAP	100.00	0.00	0.0
7	MTM	100.00	0.00	0.0
8	Vale	100.00	0.00	0.0
9	Stewart Corp	100.00	0.00	0.0
10	BT	100.00	0.00	0.0
11	London	100.00	0.00	0.0
12	Haworth	100.00	0.00	0.0
13	Coast Vella	100.00	0.00	0.0
14	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.0
15	Gesener	100.00	0.00	0.0
16	Wyle	100.00	0.00	0.0
17	Rockwell	100.00	0.00	0.0
18	BT	100.00	0.00	0.0
19	Colson	100.00	0.00	0.0
20	Samuel	100.00	0.00	0.0

Confidence remains weak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 11. Dealings end tomorrow. 800000 day November 25. Settlement day November 26. Forward prices are based on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1990/91	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	Amesbury	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
2	100.00	99.00	BP	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
3	100.00	99.00	Cheniere	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
4	100.00	99.00	BP	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
5	100.00	99.00	United Tech	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
6	100.00	99.00	EMAP	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
7	100.00	99.00	MTM	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
8	100.00	99.00	Vale	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
9	100.00	99.00	Stewart Corp	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
10	100.00	99.00	BT	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
11	100.00	99.00	London	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
12	100.00	99.00	Haworth	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
13	100.00	99.00	Coast Vella	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
14	100.00	99.00	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
15	100.00	99.00	Gesener	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
16	100.00	99.00	Wyle	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
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18	100.00	99.00	BT	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
19	100.00	99.00	Colson	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
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5	100.00	99.00	United Tech	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
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12	100.00	99.00	Haworth	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
13	100.00	99.00	Coast Vella	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
14	100.00	99.00	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
15	100.00	99.00	Gesener	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
16	100.00	99.00	Wyle	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
17	100.00	99.00	Rockwell	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
18	100.00	99.00	BT	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
19	100.00	99.00	Colson	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
20	100.00	99.00	Samuel	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0

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1	100.00	99.00	Amesbury	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
2	100.00	99.00	BP	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
3	100.00	99.00	Cheniere	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
4	100.00	99.00	BP	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
5	100.00	99.00	United Tech	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
6	100.00	99.00	EMAP	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
7	100.00	99.00	MTM	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
8	100.00	99.00	Vale	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
9	100.00	99.00	Stewart Corp	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
10	100.00	99.00	BT	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
11	100.00	99.00	London	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
12	100.00	99.00	Haworth	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
13	100.00	99.00	Coast Vella	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
14	100.00	99.00	Alcan	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
15	100.00	99.00	Gesener	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
16	100.00	99.00	Wyle	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
17	100.00	99.00	Rockwell	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
18	100.00	99.00	BT	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
19	100.00	99.00	Colson	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0
20	100.00	99.00	Samuel	100.00	0.00	0.0	0.0	10.0

414	261	221	Volvo	156	+7	1.02	149	77%	Björnsell	81	+2s	87	150	145	41	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	120	145	
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WALL STREET

Dow rises in early trading

index rose 3.20 points to 1,443.15 after falling to 1,419.91 in the morning in line with Wall Street's overnight losses and a weak Tokyo market.

□ Sydney — The market closed sharply lower, but above its low, as profit-taking

The all-ordinaries index fell 24.3 points to 1,632.5.

(Reuters)

RECENT ISSUES

Smile Gifted Jazzy Warrants	130	...
Blue Mining Warrants	25	...
Capital Vendors 1p	85	...
Energy 1p (4d)	95	...
Orange Recovery Trust (100)	95	...
Dumas Group 1p (25)	25	...
English & Scottish Warrants	17	+1
Commodity 5d (1981) Warrants	213	...
5d (1982) Value Unit (500)	474	...
Group (235)	270	...
1B Group 1p (195)	207	+1
Latin American Extra Vp (281)	504	...
A & G Income Inc Cap 1p (52)	54	...
A & G Income Inc 1p (52)	54	...
A & G Income Inc 1p (52)	54	...
A & G Income Inc 1p (52)	54	...
A & G Income Inc 1p (52)	54	...
Monroe Capital Security Ltd (500)	504	+1
Ward Group of Cornhill Sp (150)	54	...
Morgan Guaranty	54	...
RIGHTS ISSUES		
Anglo Eastern Petroleum N/P (25)	5	...
Bank of Montreal N/P (120)	10	...
Bank Thompson Sp N/P (10)	10	...

Mirror Group Newspapers, where Maxwell owns a 51 per cent stake, touched 127p be-

Northern Foods touched 485p before rallying to close 19p higher on the day at 526p after surprising the market with a heavily discounted £227 million cash call to help finance the acquisition of Express Dairies and Eden Vale from Grand Metropolitan. The terms are one-for-one at 415p. The sale of Express is just one of a series of planned disposals by GrandMet, which finished 1p cheaper at 825p.

Elsewhere in the drinks sector, Whitbread A rose 5p to 437p despite reporting a 7 per

Royal Exchange firmed 1p to 139p. Royal Insurance 9p to 283p, and Sun Alliance held steady at 314p.

Meanwhile, the specialist chemicals group, firmed 2p to 475p after weighing in with an 11 per cent first-half improvement in pre-tax profits to £96.4 million. Trading conditions remain difficult but the group has managed to increase trading margins.

Courtaulds has also agreed a merger of its yarn operations with those of the Italian group, Snia, a subsidiary of Fiat.

Racal Electronics held

The banks scored modest gains after recent weakness. National Westminster Bank touched 312p, before settling only 3p dearer at 309p after Shearson Lehman raised its profit forecast. Barclays rose 1p to 386p and Lloyds 3p to 387p, but Midland slipped 4p to 218p.

Turnover reached about 300 million shares compared with 284 million shares on Tuesday. Falling issues outnumbered rises by nearly three to one, with 742 lower, 248 higher and 158 un-

Barnes & Noble	52%	31%	Home Depot
Barnes & Noble	51%	30%	Household Int'l
Beach & Lomb	50%	30%	Houston Inds
Beck's	50%	30%	Humana
Beverly Dicks	49%	30%	ITT Corp
Bell Atlantic	48%	45%	Banque Paribas
Bedouin	47%	40%	INCO
Black & Decker	45%	10	Imperial Rand
Block (H&R)	34%	14	Israel Steel
Boeing	45%	43%	Israel Corp
Bose Cascade	23%	23%	IBM
Bryant Inc	30%	30%	Intl Paper & Fr
Reston Mfg Co	53%	81	Intl Paper

36%	56%	Schoor	44%	44%
48%	44%	Scherer Plough	60%	60%
30%	36%	Schulmberger	64%	64%
44%	44%	Scuba Tiger	94%	73%
54%	54%	Scum	13%	14%
91%	61%	Seaw Roobest	36%	36%
71%	31%	See Pacific	28%	28%
48%	47%	Shelby Tires	54%	54%
14%	19%	Sherrin Wilton	21%	21%
42%	41%	Skylark Corp	14%	14%
86%	96%	Snap-On Tools	39%	29%
89%	84	Southern Co	30%	30
69%	69%	Southwestern Bell	58%	37%

The Directors of NITL accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement and, to the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained in this advertisement is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

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ACCOUNTANCY & FINANCE

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828GROUP FINANCE
DIRECTOR

c. £43,000 package

West Kent Housing Services is at the core of a group of Housing Associations including:

- West Kent Housing Association created in 1988 to receive a voluntary transfer of over 6,000 dwellings
- Basildon Community Housing Association set up to participate in the statutory procedures for disposal of Commission for New Towns' rented housing stock at Basildon.

In line with present demands and against a background of commitment to growth, the key role of Group Finance Director has been evolved, to manage both total business and future growth effectively.

As Group Finance Director, you will take the lead responsibility for all financial matters. Principal activities will include business planning, efficiency and systems, accountancy and value for money, with special responsibility for financial advice on new business, with specific emphasis on housing development, future housing stock acquisition cash flows and relationships with private funders.

Experience of Housing Associations is not essential, however you will have a strong commercial orientation, with direct experience of a head office finance function, and be able to demonstrate an ability to make things happen. Working with the City, and delivering macro and micro financial planning, you will be highly numerate and computer literate with CIMA, ACA or MBA qualifications or equivalent.

Our benefits include excellent new offices close to the M25, flexible working hours, pension scheme and relocation allowance. We operate a restricted smoking policy.

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West Kent Housing Services Ltd,
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HOUSING SERVICESDEVELOPMENT
ACCOUNTANT

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Knightstone is a lively housing association providing housing for people in need. It is the largest in the South West, having over 4,000 units already in management.

We are now seeking to strengthen the Finance Department's senior team and wish to fill this post, reporting to the Director of Finance.

Knightstone has a substantial and varied development programme valued at £25 million p.a. You will take charge of a small team of staff specifically dedicated to development Finance and take responsibility for the overall financial planning of the programme.

You will be a fully qualified accountant, with recent experience in the finances of developing housing associations.

This post will be based at our Head Office in Weston-super-Mare.

For an application form and job description, please contact: Miss J. Gurner, Knightstone Housing Association Ltd., Station Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS22 0AP. Tel: 0834 520052. Closing date for applications: Monday, December 3, 1991.

Knightstone Housing Association is working towards becoming an Equal Opportunities Employer and encourages applications from all sections of the community.

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ACCOUNTANT

We are an Accountant for an office currently consisting of 35 staff.

Duties will include Book-keeping, Budget & Financial Control functions.

Ideally the candidates should be in the age range up to 35 years, the holder of a Degree and an Accountancy qualification with a working knowledge of LOTUS 123 and PEGASUS Software.

Please write with full C.V. to:-

Mr R.T. Firman, Nippondenso (UK) Ltd.,

Roycraft House, 15 Linton Road,
Barking, Essex IG11 8HG.

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Candidates, probably aged 27-35 years, should have a degree and be qualified Chartered Accountants, with commercial or industrial experience. High level interpersonal skills and natural authority are needed. Benefits and prospects are first class.

Please write in confidence, enclosing detailed CV, and quoting reference TT/ID to Fox Valentine Limited, 25 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE, Fax 071 831 3127.



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To arrange an interview please call Patrick O'Brien on 071-936 2857 or fax/post your C.V. in complete confidence to 36/38 Whitefriars Street, London EC4Y 8BH, Fax: 071-583 6531

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Dollars flow into a scarred society

Wealth is already being enjoyed in Hungary, the envy of the other new democracies in eastern Europe. But there are still many problems, as Ernest Beck reports

If you ask any Hungarian how he or she is faring under the new democratic regime and emerging market economy, the response will probably be a litany of complaints. Prices are high and taxes crippling. In many cases, however, the tirade is interrupted only by a second helping of rich cream cake, before the person in question speeds off in a BMW to inspect a new house rising in the leafy Buda hills.

Reality is elusive in the country once known as "the happiest barracks in the bloc", the place where cautious communists first toyed with market reforms and private enterprise, and taught President Gorbachev how a few incentives could put more food in the shops.

Although they live much better than their neighbours behind the former Iron Curtain, Hungarians have not lost their penchant for pessimism. Amid the first signs of growing wealth and economic recovery, apparent a year and a half after democratic elections swept away the remnants of socialism in March and April 1990, they easily lapse into prophecies of doom.

With each new multi-million dollar foreign investment or joint venture, Hungarians are likely to wonder when the bubble will burst, rather than feel pleased about a job well done.

Perhaps the gloom harks to Hungary's past. A subordinate role in the Habsburg Empire, dismemberment by the Tripartite Treaty after the first world war, then the decision to join the Nazi campaign to dominate Europe, followed by German occupation, have left their mark.

The decades of humiliation endured after Soviet troops silenced the cry for freedom in the 1956 uprising further in-

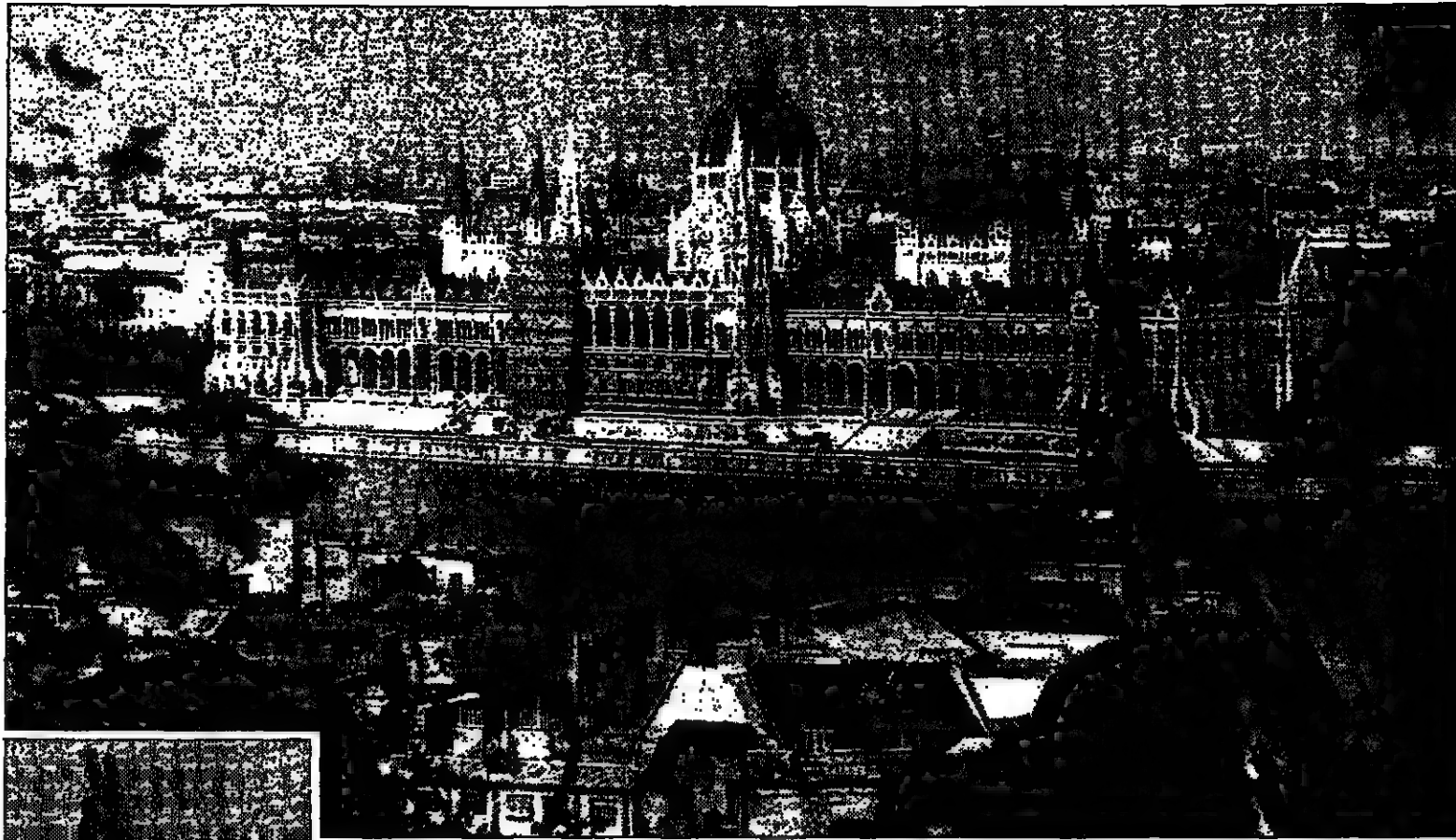
grained a sense of defeat. "Hungarian history is a sequence of tragic events," says President Árpád Göncz, a writer, translator and veteran of 1956, who is seen by many as the conscience of the nation, and who has this week made the first official visit to Britain by a Hungarian head of state.

When democracy did come, it was handed to Hungarians on a silver platter. The former Communist Party, sensing defeat and hoping to outflank the rising tide of reform, opted for self-destruction. No blood was spilt and no demonstrations slowed weekend shopping sprees to Vienna.

The masses marched in Prague, Warsaw and Bucharest against Stalinist regimes, but the Hungarians simply negotiated a complicated, but peaceful, transition before trickling to the polls, with little enthusiasm, to elect a centre-right government.

After years of one-man rule under János Kádár, the man chosen as prime minister was a dour museum director, József Antall. He promised a return to Europe, a social market economy, and "traditional Christian moral values". Although he appeared bumbling and uncertain at first, dithering over appointments and policy, and misreading the effect of petrol price rises which led to an embarrassing three-day taxi strike last November, Mr Antall's stewardship deserves praise.

For many, he lacks the charisma of a Lech Wałęsa, the president of Czechoslovakia, or the domineering presence of a Vladimir Lukin, the Polish leader, and he is prone to dreary speeches and carping over press criticism. Like him or not, however, Mr Antall's



Bumbling beginner, but Antall now deserves praise

accomplishment has been to guide the country deftly to a political stability and sound economic programme that are the envy of other struggling post-communist governments.

"I must be a madman or a missionary to take on this job," Mr Antall said after his election, in a rare moment of self-mockery. He was mad, arguably, to tackle an inher-

itance of communist mismanagement and a \$20 billion (about £11 billion) foreign debt, the largest per capita in central Europe. The persuasive powers of a missionary were needed to convince reluctant western businesses that Hungary was the best place to invest their money. The results, however, are spectacular. Foreign capital is flooding Hungary - about \$1

billion in the past year, or roughly half of all investment in the region. Despite a severe recession, which has seen industrial production fall and inflation soar, some Hungarians are doing well, some very well. Personal hard currency savings have doubled from last year to top \$1.5 billion, according to the Hungarian National Bank.

Signs of wealth are everywhere. On Saturday morning, young families queue to buy high-priced Swedish furniture at the local Ikea outlet. The Porsche dealership in the former East German cultural centre reports an upsurge in sales. Even in the off-season, it is hard to get a table at the best Italian restaurant in Budapest, where a meal costs the equivalent of an average month's salary.

Scratch the surface, however, and it is easy to find the results of a painful transformation. The new democratic government found itself

saddled with the mess of a failed socialist safety net. In the blighted districts of Budapest, the elderly live on pensions of £50 a month and scavenge in rubbish bins. The homeless gather at soup kitchens for their only warm meal of the day. Statistics vary, but it is believed that up to a third of the population lives below the poverty level.

Drug dealers and prostitutes are proliferating, and other crime is rampant. Mr Antall himself is not safe. Parliamentary guards admitted stealing his watch when he was absent from his office.

The "free" health-care system is crumbling, and only a hefty bribe gets you on to the operating table. There has been a housing shortage for decades. Divorce, suicide, alcoholism and infant mortality rates remain far above west European averages.

Facing a financial crisis, Mr Antall and his ministers have little extra money to help to

Troubled waters: the Hungarian parliament in Budapest is struggling with the new freedoms

alleviate the suffering found on their doorstep.

Not surprisingly, Mr Antall's popularity has fallen. Polls show that the League of Young Democrats, a forceful, under-35 party whose leaders look trendy and talk straight about the future, would easily defeat Mr Antall's conservative Democratic Forum if an election were held today.

Public mistrust of politicians is, however, widespread. Decades of forced obedience to party hacks can be blamed for the apathy, together with televised sessions of the current parliament in which MPs quarrel endlessly over how to reduce communist crimes and whether the national symbol should have a crown.

Yet Mr Antall cannot be accused of fiddling while

Budapest burns. Sorting out sticky domestic issues, such as compensating the church for lost property, and landowners for holdings confiscated by the communists, was, he argues, a way of settling scores and providing "historical justice" in a manner how long and boring the debates.

Realigning foreign policy was easier. Hungary has tilted slowly, but inexorably westward, reshaping its image from that of a loyal servant of Moscow to that of a trustworthy European partner. It has joined the Council of Europe, come near to agreement on associate membership of the European Community, helped to bury the Warsaw Pact and knocked at the door of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

On the other hand, with the rise of nationalism in Slovakia, Romania and Serbia, where altogether about three million ethnic Hungarians live as minorities, relations with neighbouring countries have shown signs of strain. Mr Antall's self-proclaimed status as protector and guardian of Hungarians who live abroad has ruffled diplomatic feathers in Bucharest and Belgrade, and aroused old suspicions that Budapest harbours plans to reclaim territory.

This is nonsense. The foreign ministry in Budapest is steering clear of interference and presses minority rights issues only at international levels. Hungary's careful neutrality in the Yugoslav conflict is conclusive proof. Despite incursions by Yugoslav aircraft, an attack on a Hungarian village, disruptions at frontier crossings, and the influx of almost 40,000 refugees that it has no money to house and feed, Hungary remains a frontline state which has kept its cool as the storm rages across the border.

Hungary could, one day emerge as a central European Switzerland, a calm, conservative and credible country, playing host to tourists and a flourishing financial sector, and nurturing prosperity without constant political upheaval. This is the dream of many Hungarians.

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As the state monoliths are slowly dismantled, brave entrepreneurs are trying to drag their economy out of the communist mire

Last breath of the pickled cucumber

The small corner grocery in Kisfaludy Street, in Budapest, is typical of many shops which fell into ruin under communist neglect. Peeling paint and meagre offerings of cabbage and peppers are ample evidence that under the old regime, the customer was nothing but a nuisance, and profit rarely given a thought.

That should all change now that Mrs Tibor Papp, the new owner, has taken over. She intends to sack the surly staff, replace the neon lights, and offer a quality selection of imported products. For £15,000, cobbled together from savings and a bank loan at 30 per cent, Mrs Papp bought into Hungary's fledgling entrepreneurial class at a state-sponsored auction.

However, it will not be easy as competition is fierce and consumer spending down. Inflation is running at 35 per cent. Although Hungarians had a head start in home-grown high street capitalism under the old regime, the government's plan to shed an estimated 10,000 shops, bars, and restaurants in the first wave of small-scale privatisation is floundering.

Shops in city centres such as the bustling Vaci Utca, a street well known to tourists, sell

quickly and prosper. Fast food and services previously unknown, such as copy shops, also thrive. But shops in the outlying districts and countryside do not do so well.

Some economists suggest there is a psychological barrier to be crossed. Making money is suspect, and sometimes frowned upon. The much-vaunted stock market, the first in eastern Europe, is limping along, and open only two hours a day. "Nobody wants to buy flimsy pieces of paper," one analyst says.

Mrs Papp and other aspiring capitalists may have the will to succeed, but it is the large foreign companies, with their cash reserves that are really fuelling the restructuring of the Hungarian economy.

The foreigner-friendly strategy of tax incentives, cheap labour and promises of no union problems, has worked. Eight thousand joint-venture

companies have been registered in the past year. In just one week in November almost a quarter of a billion dollars in new foreign investment found its way to Hungary.

General Motors, Philip Morris, United Technologies and the Beacom company, an important American property developer, all announced projects — including the building of central Europe's largest hotel and office complex in Budapest.

Suzuki and General Motors will soon be rolling off assembly lines in Hungary. They will replace the tinned peas and pickled cucumbers which Hungarian factories once dutifully shipped to a captive Soviet market, which vanished with the collapse of Comecon, the socialist trading bloc.

The fast pace of restructuring means that Hungarian exports are heading west:

trade in this direction has swollen by 18 per cent this year while the Soviet market has shrunk by 60 per cent. Greater access to European Community markets should come shortly when Hungary, along with Poland and Czechoslovakia, signs an association agreement. Despite a dispute with France over exports of Hungarian goose and duck liver, tariffs are expected to fall for Hungary's vast agricultural surplus.

Progress has been slower in selling off large state enterprises, especially heavy industry. Unlike Czechoslovakia, which chose to sell cheap shares to its citizens, Hungary prefers foreigners to take control. Bidding is light, however, for these uncompetitive communist giants, many of which survived bankruptcy only through subsidies.

Murky property laws and bureaucracy add to the confu-

sion. Attempts to sell off the Gellert hotel, a luxury establishment in Budapest, were cancelled recently amid conflicting land claims. Sometimes the machinery of privatisation is agonisingly slow. Colgate Palmolive recently backed out of a deal after an 18-month delay.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that about one-tenth of 2,000 state enterprises have passed to private hands, and that 25 per cent of gross domestic product is generated by the private sector's 37,000 limited liability companies. The gold rush includes Hungarian businessmen eager to scoop up consumers and to cash in on niche markets, with gimmicky products and services.

Slick new business magazines regale readers with tales of entrepreneurial sleight of hand, including Budapest's only topless hairdresser, and one man who grows mushrooms in an old Soviet nuclear missile silo. These brash pioneers are setting the pace for change and denting the long dole queues. The government hopes their bravado will inspire others to shrug off the years of communist complacency.



E.B. Past master: heavy state industries are being sold off as Hungary embraces capitalism

Faded Habsburg elegance entices tourists

So many visitors are pouring into Hungary that street vendors have taken to selling T-shirts emblazoned with the sarcastic slogan "This is Budapest, not Bucharest", to remind the one-country-a-day tourists exactly where they are.

Tempted by scenes of toppled statues of Lenin and the fall of the Berlin Wall, holidaymakers are discovering the "real" Europe behind the former Iron Curtain, and Hungary has become the most convenient, and most pleasant, first stop on a tour of the former eastern bloc.

Here East meets West, and the initial shock is cushioned by the sight of locals in jeans, pizza shops, boutiques and a fleet of Mercedes taxis. Budapest is enjoying its fame as the elegant, but dilapidated Paris of the East. It is the fourth most popular travel destination in Europe, and this year has attracted 40 million visitors, bringing in a record \$1 billion and making tourism one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy.

With its tree-lined boulevards and quiet backstreets,

its charms hark back to its heyday as the second city of the Habsburg empire. Imperial air remains in the baroque buildings and the royal palace, which dominates Castle Hill, high above the winding, brackish waters of the Danube.

Although 30,000 buildings were destroyed in the war, it still has masterpieces of many periods. Art deco reached a peak there at the turn of the century, when Hungarian architects vied with the

Vijennaises. Today, the flamboyant and flowery patterns and gold-inlaid designs shine through layers of dust. At night, Budapest has a magical and romantic air, as the flickering lights of the Danube bridges are reflected in the dark waters below.

In the busy summer season, it is sometimes difficult to walk down the elegant Danube "Corso", the promenade which runs along the river. Germans and Austrians march along in motley packs,

This year 40 million visitors flooded into Budapest, the dilapidated Paris of the East



Steamy knights: floating chessboards provide diversion at Széchenyi baths

arguing with peasant women about the price of lace tablecloths, while groups of Italians sit in shaded cafés, sipping cappuccino and exchanging tips on where to buy the cheapest Ray-Ban sunglasses.

The ambience is moody and melancholic, the prices are affordable (although that is changing rapidly) and away from the tourist haunts is a world that has not changed in 40 years. Quiet cobble-stoned streets have crumbling and grimy houses whose façades

are riddled with bullet holes. In the hidden courtyards, elderly women beat their carpets in the dim sunlight.

It is a walk through history. At Deák square, the onion domes of the central synagogue — the largest in eastern Europe — mark the entrance to the old Jewish ghetto, where families of merchants and craftsmen who survived the Holocaust eke out a living in their tiny shops.

The imposing neo-Gothic parliament no longer has its

giant red star, but the balcony where Imre Nagy, prime minister during the 1956 uprising, made his plea for freedom, is still there. Tours are arranged to old Soviet army bases.

Those tired of walking can soak lazily in one of the city's numerous outdoor thermal baths — preferably the Széchenyi, a neo-baroque edifice with carved portals and mosaic walkways. The locals entertain themselves with floating cork chessboards, while more energetic souls plough through clouds of steam.

There is life beyond Budapest, however. Residents of the capital leave en masse every summer for Lake Balaton, the Hungarian Riviera, which is the country's only claim to a coastline.

Overdevelopment has

tainted some stretches of the shore with tower-block hotels. But this vast expanse of warm, shallow water and gentle vine-laden hills delights swimmers and windsurfers.

South of the lake is Pécs, a wondrous city, way off the tourist trail. With its red-tile roofs and gardens, perched on a sloping mountainside, Pécs resembles a remote Mediterranean enclave. Once a busy crossroads of east-west trade, it remains rich in art and architecture, and also retains the legacy of the Turkish occupation.

The city's main square is dominated by the huge mosque of Gazi Kasim Pasha — the largest surviving Turkish monument in Hungary. Modern art can be admired at the Victor Vasarely museum, dedicated to the native son credited with being the founder of Op Art.

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UPDATE

Protected by a pinta

CHILDREN who drink plenty of milk have lower blood pressure and may be warding off heart trouble later in life, a study reported to the American Heart Association meeting has found. Matthew Gillman, of Boston University, said pre-school children's blood pressure was four points lower for every glass of milk they drank daily.

Cracked it

SCIENTISTS with the British Antarctic Survey have for drilled through the ice shelf to the water below. They report in *Nature* that the 562-metre deep hole through the Ronne shelf has confirmed predictions about the currents of the water, which helps to aerate and cool the oceans.

Woman at risk

THE largest study of passive smoking yet carried out shows that non-smoking women living with men who smoke are at far greater risk of lung cancer. The survey, by a group

led by Dr Elizabeth Fontham, of the pathology department at Louisiana State University medical centre, found the risks of adenocarcinoma, the least common type of lung cancer among smokers, were increased by 70 per cent among women married to smokers.

Almost human

A COMPETITION for intelligent computers in Boston, Massachusetts, has been won by a program called PC Therapist, which fooled five out of ten judges into believing it was human. The first annual Loebner Prize went to Joseph Weintraub, the president of Thinking Software, for the best-performing program in a test devised by the British pioneer Alan Turing in 1950.

Virus alert

British computer virus experts have begun compiling a monthly league table of attacks to provide an early warning for firms and organisations. The table, which is also being distributed to Scotland Yard's computer crime unit, is being made by Edward Wilding of the authoritative *Virus Bulletin*.

Putting the finger on a poisoner.

After 80 years, DNA fingerprints confirm that Crohn's disease may be caused by infected meat or polluted water. Malcolm Brown reports

A Scottish surgeon's suspicion that chronic enteritis, known as Crohn's disease, might be identical to the animal condition Johne's disease has been vindicated, nearly 80 years after the event, using DNA fingerprinting.

Researchers at St George's Hospital medical school, London, have proved that the bacillus causing Johne's is present in most Crohn's patients. Their finding suggests that the source of Crohn's may be milk or meat from infected animals, or water supplies contaminated by animal wastes.

There are about 60,000 Crohn's sufferers in the UK and the number is rising, particularly among young women and children. The disease consists of chronic intestinal inflammation, causing abdominal pain, diarrhoea and rapid weight loss, and retards children's growth and sexual maturation. Some patients need repeated surgery to clear the intestines or remove irreversible disease.

In 1913, Thomas Dalziel suggested in the *British Medical Journal* that Crohn's and Johne's were the same, although he lacked techniques to trace in humans the

fine bacilli found in the animals. In the 1980s, scientists researching Crohn's at the Middlessex Hospital and elsewhere looked for mycobacteria, tough rod-shaped bacteria that flourish in difficult conditions, including dust and pond water. They found some in Crohn's patients, but also in healthy people.

John Hermon-Taylor, the professor of surgery at St George's, took up the research, believing that DNA fingerprinting, which matches sequences of genetic material in tissue samples, might reveal similarities. In 1985 he obtained from the United States three samples from cultures seeded with the tissues of Crohn's patients. He and his colleagues extracted 40-billionths of a gram of DNA from the first and 20-billionths of a gram from each of the other samples.

Professor Hermon-Taylor used DNA fingerprinting to show that the DNA from the three specimens and from the agent known to cause Johne's, *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*, were identical.

However, growing cultures from Crohn's disease tissues takes a long time and Professor Hermon-Taylor needed a method to detect the Johne's bacillus directly in diseased



Finding the link: Professor John Hermon-Taylor now wants food and water supplies investigated

tissues without culturing. Just such a technique, the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), has been developed in the US and Professor Hermon-Taylor has harnessed it. PCR allows him to multiply tiny quantities of DNA, producing enough for the fingerprinting technique.

Professor Hermon-Taylor says: "Scientists here have applied the

method to DNA extracted from tissues of patients having abdominal operations for Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and other disorders such as cancer where the rest of the gut is normal."

Out of 40 "normal" samples only five (12 per cent) were positive for the bacillus; from 23 people with ulcerative colitis only one (4.3 per

cent) was positive; but 26 of the 40 Crohn's patients (65 per cent) showed up positive.

Professor Hermon-Taylor concludes: "We must now investigate food and water supplies to see if we can find how the disease is spread. We have more than enough evidence to warrant action, and we will need resources to carry it out."



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Sea shells have it all wrapped up

Waste shells from processed prawns, crabs and lobsters may soon provide a material with uses as varied as cleaning contaminated water and wrapping fruit.

After 20 years, engineers at Queen's University, Belfast, headed by Dr Gordon McKay, have found a cheap way to extract chitin, the material that makes shells hard.

The chitin is produced by washing and drying the shells and treating them with sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid. The chitin can be converted to a related and more useful substance, chitosan, whose chemical structure allows it to bind at several points to metal atoms in solution.

This characteristic is the basis for purifying waste water containing metal ions. Pos-

Crabs and lobsters may provide a new material with a wide range of uses

itively charged particles, or metal ions, dissolved or suspended in the water, which may come from lignosulphates in paper mill effluent, natural tannins in leather processing or copper in electroplating plant, bind strongly to the chitin or chitosan and come out as natural solids. The water can then be filtered for discharge or re-use.

Industrial liquid systems can similarly be cleansed of dyes, pesticides, waste proteins, heavy metals and even chlorinated compounds, promising huge benefits for the pharmaceutical, animal feed and food industries. Efforts to purify waste sol-

utions by other means, such as ion exchange, chemical oxidation and electrochemical treatment have been costly and have achieved little.

The waste trade could gain because impurities can be removed by the same principle. Dr McKay plans a wine-clearing kit as the university's first chitin product, which he intends to follow with an apparatus to treat beer and fruit juices.

Chitin can also be used to form clear protective films, making an excellent oxygen barrier, and might be used for packaging or in food preservation. Chitin-coated apples on shelf display for six months remain fresh. Treated sim-

ilarly, seeds, including cereal crops, are protected from fungi and keep their moisture and nutrients indefinitely.

Other applications are in medicine, where chitin can be used as a thickening agent, inducing blood-clotting, or as a slow-release capsule for drugs. Dr McKay says: "All these value-added products come from what is a waste material. There is plenty of the stuff floating about."

The final stage of the work, a two-year product development project shared by Queen's and Cork Regional College, is being supported by the European Community. The prototype plant, near the university, should be in operation within two years.

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Threatening threat: Dr Gordon McKay with new material

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Top Director of International Investment Bank seeks senior PA/Sec. You should preferably have extensive experience in the Financial Sector, coupled with immaculate presentation, excellent secretarial skills and a good education.

In return, you will be rewarded by working for a respected and stable company, will use your initiative and liaise at the highest level on a daily basis.

Age: 25 - 35 Skills: 80/60
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(Rec Com)

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This is a high profile position in a young dynamic company. The salary and benefits offered will reflect the level of responsibility and commitment expected.

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£15,000

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Person Friday

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USA GIRL

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USA GIRL

Family with three nice children seeks girl for min. 1 year. If you consider learning German an asset to your career please apply to: Mrs. Göhrke, Ernst-Zeiler-Str. 38b, 20779 Hamburg, Germany tel: 010 49/4102/61004

Fifth Amendment looks ready

FOLLOWING that sound run in third place behind Tipping Tim and Sea Island at Cheltenham 13 days ago, Fifth Amendment can now win the Lord Stairbridge Memorial Gold Cup at Wincanton today.

At Cheltenham nothing was going better than Fifth Amendment jumping the third-fence but shortly afterwards, like the majority of the horses that his trainer Jenny Pitman has run this autumn, lack of peak fitness began to tell on what was his seasonal debut, and he was allowed to come home in his own time.

With that race under his belt however, Fifth Amendment should now be in the right condition to do himself better justice.

When winning by ten lengths at Leicester last February, he showed that today's distance of three miles and a furlong is well within his range.

MANDARIN

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

whereas for the recent course winner Eastshaw it represents a new challenge since he has been campaigning mostly around two-and-a-half miles.

For Windy Ways the distance will certainly be no problem judged on the way that he performed last season. In this instance, though, he and the others could well find Fifth Amendment just a fraction too sharp.

While Josh Gifford will have been most disappointed at the way events worked out for three of his most promising young jumpers at Ascot last weekend, he will be looking to a fourth, Deep Sensation, to make amends by winning the Chard Novices' Chase.

Deep Sensation has always looked every inch a chaser

with a pedigree to match. Yet he still managed to take pretty high rank when he was racing hurdles, most notably winning the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury.

Now that he will be tackling the sort of task for which he was bred, he should come into his own and possibly be right to the top.

While conceding that Young Hunter and Jokers Patch must go well in the Great Western Novices' Hurdle judged on the way that each won recently, I'm content to go with the Toby Balding-trained Ask Frank, who won even more convincingly at Cheltenham last time.

If Special fails to beat Rembrandt Song in the Nightingale Handicap Chase over a distance that could well stretch his stamina beyond its limits, consolation for his trainer Nick Gascoole should not be long coming in the form of Easy Buck winning the



Gascoole fine chance for Easy Buck

Wessex Handicap Hurdle.

Instead of waiting for Easy Buck to be re-rated following that ten-length victory at Wolverhampton ten days ago, Gascoole has decided, quite understandably, to go to the well again quickly with only a 4lb penalty to carry.

Finally, as far as the Wincanton programme is con-

cerned, the Orchard FM Second Anniversary Novices' Handicap Hurdle can go to Chief Celt, who is now in the care of Jeff King following Peter Bailey's retirement.

There was a lot to like about the way that this full brother to that good horse Celtic Chief performed behind Thetford Forest at Wolverhampton when he ran for the first time for his new handler.

At Haydock, an enormous rise in the weights overnight has given the Gordon Richardson-trained Franchise a good chance of winning the Tim Molony Memorial Chase. An hour later, his stable companion Wayside Boy could also collect the Makerfield Novices' Chase.

As far as the Coral Golden Hurdle qualifier is concerned, I like none better than Ambuscade who was a good third behind Danny Harwood and The Demon Barber at Cheltenham.

By GEORGE RAE

Pitman inspects Newbury before Hennessy decision

By GEORGE RAE

JENNY Pitman will walk the course at Newbury early tomorrow morning before making the decision on whether Garrison Savannah will run in Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup.

"If it's soft he won't run," Mrs Pitman said at Kempton yesterday. "He worked well this morning but there is absolutely no pressure on me to run him."

"If we don't go for the Hennessy then he will probably run at Haydock in the Tommy Whittle Chase."

Although heavy rain fell in the south on Tuesday, the forecast for the next few days is for predominantly dry weather. The going on Newbury's chase course yesterday was good with good to soft patches in the back straight.

Martin Pipe warmed up for his Hennessy challenge by

completing a double with Master Gleason and Caché Fleur, the former giving Martin Foster a winner on his first ride over fences in the Staines Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Chase.

Like Mrs Pitman, Pipe is waiting until the last minute to finalise his plans. Chatham is a confirmed runner, but the mud-loving Aquilifer will run only if the ground is good to soft or softer.

Steve Smith Eccles excelled on Norman Conqueror, the two-length winner of the Premier Markets Novices' Chase.

Norman Conqueror's immaturity threatened to be his downfall but Smith Eccles took charge of the six-year-old and, having worked tirelessly to keep Norman Conqueror in contention, drove him to the front on the run-in.

"Norman Conqueror hasn't

learned to be competitive yet," said Tim Thompson Jones, the winning trainer. "He doesn't understand that the idea is to get in front and stay there. He's happy to let anyone go past."

But when he does get the bang of the game I think he'll be a good horse and long-term I'll be thinking about the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham."

Travado, an impressive bumper winner at Kempton last season, made an eye-catching debut when taking the Fairview New Homes Novices' Hurdle.

"I like this horse a lot," Nicky Henderson, the winning trainer, said. "He will learn from this race and I am confident he's got a future."

Henderson confirmed that Sparkling Flame, who missed the feature race on the programme, the Boxing Day Trial Chase Handicap, with a pulled muscle, is likely to reappear at Cheltenham on Saturday week.

There is an Arlington Chase qualifier at Cheltenham and I could run him in that instead of in the Rehearsal Chase if it comes up very soft," Henderson said.

In Sparkling Flame's absence, Foyleshire added to his recent eclipse of Garrison Savannah at Wincanton by beating Solidasrock.

Before racing began a life-style bronze of Desert Orchid, the winner of the King George V Chase at Kempton, was unveiled. The sculpture by Philip Blacker overlooks the main entrance.

Resolute Auntie Dot upsets Celtic Shot

AUNTIE Dot claimed the mount soon came under pressure and ultimately found the concession of 21lb too much for him when challenged by Resolute Auntie Dot on the long run.

John Webber's brave mare has the Grand National as her long-term target after beating the former champion hurdler by three-quarters of a length.

Celtic Shot looked sure to repeat last year's victory when assuming command early in the straight.

But Graham Bradley's

mount soon came under pressure and ultimately found the concession of 21lb too much for him when challenged by Resolute Auntie Dot on the long run.

John Webber's brave mare has the Grand National as her long-term target after beating the former champion hurdler by three-quarters of a length.

Celtic Shot looked sure to repeat last year's victory when assuming command early in the straight.

But Graham Bradley's

LUDLOW

MANDARIN 1.30 Pendennis. 1.50 Jester. 2.00 Casseuse. 2.50 Charlotte's Oliver. 3.20 Don't Light Up.

THUNDERER 1.20 Casseuse. 1.50 Pendennis. 2.00 Jester. 2.50 Casseuse. 3.20 Don't Light Up.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

12.50 NORTON NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (E1,800: 2m) (18 runners)

1 CHARLIE HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
2 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
3 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
4 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
5 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
6 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
7 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
8 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
9 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
10 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
11 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
12 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
13 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
14 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
15 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
16 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
17 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
18 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10

1.20 HIGH SUMMER HANDICAP CHASE (E3,000: 2m) (5 runners)

1 B. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
2 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
3 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
4 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
5 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10

1.50 THE ROYAL HIGHERNESSES THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateur, E2,500: 2m) (7 runners)

1 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
2 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
3 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
4 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
5 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
6 G. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
7 P. HILL 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Haydock Park

Going: good
1.15 (2m) (4 runners) ENFANT DU PARADIS (7) 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
2.15 (2m) (4 runners) ENFANT DU PARADIS (7) 11.5 (D.J.F.) D. Richards 11-10
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Bulgarians hold group two challengers

Scotland progress to finals after Romanians draw

By RODDY FORSYTH

AGAINST the odds as well as the predictions of most observers, Scotland qualified last night for the finals of the European football championship — the first time they have gone so far in the tournament — as Bulgaria and Romania drew 1-1 in the final of group two in the Vasil Levski stadium in Sofia.

There was an element of good fortune in the Scots' progress because had Romania won 2-1, they would have joined England in the last eight in Sweden. In the first half, the Romanians took the lead when Adrian Popescu was able to fasten onto a downward header from Illov, after a deceptive free kick, taken inevitably by Hagi, to shoot past the Bulgarian goalkeeper, Mikhailov.

At that stage, on the half-hour mark, the advantage was no more than Romania deserved, but it might easily have been greater had two incidents within the space of two minutes not proved unfortunate for the visitors.

In the first, the forward, Lacatus, had the ball in the net but was ruled offside in what was a close decision. There was nothing ambiguous about the penalty kick which Bulgaria conceded 90 seconds later, when Mikhailov brought down Rotariou. Hagi stepped up as usual to take the kick and he placed it to the goalkeeper's left, just as he had done when he scored against Andy Goram when the Scots visited Bucharest last month.

On that occasion, Goram guessed the direction of the kick correctly but slipped as he dived and could only divert the ball into the net. Last night, Mikhailov threw himself in the same direction and succeeded in blocking the kick and the ball was scrambled away. It will almost certainly be, the Romanians will feel, the moment which cost them their place in the finals and permitted Scotland to progress.

Ten minutes into the second half, much of the heart went out of the Romanian effort when Sirakov, so often the executioner for Bulgaria, pirouetted eight yards from the centre of goal to strike a cutback from Stokhoyv cleanly beyond Lug in the Romanian goal.

GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	4	3	1	1	14	7	11
Switzerland	4	2	2	0	11	4	8
Romania	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Bulgaria	4	1	2	1	10	8	5
San Marino	4	0	2	2	5	15	0

RESULTS: Scotland 2, Romania 1; Switzerland 2, Bulgaria 0; Romania 0, Bulgaria 0; Scotland 1, Romania 1; San Marino 0, Switzerland 2; San Marino 0, Bulgaria 0; Scotland 2, Romania 0; Bulgaria 0, Switzerland 2; San Marino 0, Romania 0; Scotland 1, Bulgaria 1; Romania 1, Switzerland 1; Bulgaria 1, San Marino 0; Scotland 4, San Marino 0; Bulgaria 1, Romania 1; Switzerland 0, Romania 0.

FINALS

Group one: France	Group two: Scotland
Group three: Soviet Union	Group four: Yugoslavia
Group five: Wales or Germany	Group six: Netherlands or Portugal or Greece
Group seven: England	Hosts: Sweden

Thereafter, Bulgaria were in charge of the contest but for the Scottish watchers at home, and in Sofia, where Andy Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, was in attendance, the game assumed a heart-stopping slow motion character.

Although the margin of qualification was wafer-thin, Roxburgh afterwards rejected the suggestion that Scotland had ridden to Sweden on the backs of the Bulgarians. "When people look at the group table, they will see that we won on points, just as our under-21 team did on Tuesday night," he said.

"When the section began last year, Romania were favourites to win both the senior and the under-21 qualification places. Switzerland were probably reckoned to be second and it was really between Bulgaria and us to make up the numbers.

"We have used 29 players,



Roxburgh: ebullient

sometimes in situations where we deployed a patchwork team, with lads playing out of position in order to fill gaps. Yet we have come through and for the first time in our history we have reached the finals of a tournament which has always been difficult for us.

"It is not made any easier for us in the European championships when the League programme in Scotland is not postponed on the Saturdays before our fixtures. You have seen how much disruption we have been caused through injuries but it says a very great deal for the team spirit we have developed that we have been able to qualify from one of the most difficult sections in the competition."

Looking to the future, Scotland intend to set up a number of internationals in preparation for their journey to Sweden. Already, Northern Ireland are scheduled to visit Hampden Park in February and the following month, the Scots will probably play either Brazil or Italy. As soon as the domestic season ends, in May, they are likely to embark on a four-game tour of Mexico, the United States, Canada and Iceland, but the immediate run-up to the finals will be spent with the players gathered together at home in Scotland.

Roxburgh will fly home tomorrow, able to bask in the distinction of being the manager who succeeded where all of his predecessors had failed. What he must hope for now is that the team he will take to Sweden is regarded as underdogs, traditionally the epithet which draws the best performance from Scottish players.

□ Maurice Johnston's international career with Scotland may be over after the forward, signed for £1.6 million by Everton this week, infuriated Roxburgh by comments he made in a national newspaper.

Unless Johnston makes a public apology after the Scotland coach returns from Sofia, he may never play for his country again.

Roxburgh enticed Johnston out of retirement last February after the 14-goal international retired after the World Cup finals in Italy. "I am bitterly disappointed," he said.



Flavour of the month: Lineker, England captain and first division top scorer, goes oriental as he savours the prospect of his next career move

Lineker to leave Tottenham for Japan

By DENNIS SIGNY

GARY Lineker, the captain of England, confirmed yesterday that he would leave Tottenham Hotspur at the end of this season to play for the Japanese club, Grampus Eight.

Lineker, who will be 31 on November 30, has signed a two-year contract that is reported to be worth as much as £3 million to him and just under £1 million to Tottenham.

Terry Venables, the London club's chief executive, said yesterday that Tottenham could have obtained more for Lineker by selling him to a team in Italy and that he had been offered "twice the amount of money" they were getting from Japan.

The news of Lineker's departure, in the wake of Paul Gascoigne's likely move to

Lazio in Italy next May, was announced at a crowded press conference at Tottenham by the player, Venables, Alan Sugar, the co-owner of Tottenham, and Christian Flood, representing the Japanese League, which is to start in 1993.

Lineker, who is top scorer in the first division with 19 goals and three short of Bobby Charlton's record total of 49 for England, said: "Another trophy would be a tremendous way to say goodbye. I want to go out with a bang, being successful with Tottenham and England. It was always my intention to go out at the top. I hope, with the European championship, I will be doing just that."

Lineker's timetable is to continue with Tottenham until the end of this season, a year before his contract ends, play for England in the European championship, then to take an extended break, with two holidays, playing cricket, and going to the Olympics and the Open golf championship. He will join Grampus Eight in Nagoya in February 1993, having in the meantime attempted to grasp the basics of Japanese.

Grampus, who have two stadiums, one holding 30,000 the other 15,000, will be one of ten teams playing in the new Japanese League. The teams, on the lines of the Scottish premier division, will play each other four times.

Lineker, who declined to discuss his personal terms and said his plan had been to retire at the end of his contract next season until this option arose, stressed he was going to Japan primarily as a player, but also to help promote the game. The

World Cup, he said had attracted wide interest in Japan, which hopes to host the tournament in 2002.

Lineker said he saw the move as an adventure and the fact that he was the first choice of the Japanese club had been a boost to his ego. "I would be a liar if I said the financial rewards weren't of interest," he added. Lineker said he would miss most of all the passion of English crowds; "I didn't experience it in Spain."

Jon Holmes, Lineker's agent, said that the Japanese interest began in March when four fax messages arrived from the Grampus club and from agents. Tottenham were told, but at that stage it was uncertain who owned the club or whether its existence was assured. Venables refused to say when Tottenham would re-

ceive the £1 million, but Sugar said of the club's finances that he hoped there would be "a bright light at the end of the tunnel" at the end of next month. Tottenham's annual meeting is on December 19 when, if all goes well, details of the club's financial structure would be revealed. Sugar said annual results to May 31 should be announced next week.

Tottenham's first task, Sugar added, was still to reduce the debts incurred by some previous "bad business" and diversification in the company. He had been "horrid" at the extent of the debts he and Venables took over.

Lineker, who joined Tottenham from Barcelona for £1.2 million in August 1989, said, "I hope people will remember what I have done in this country."

Germans arrested as disturbances flare

Brussels — Belgian police detained almost 200 German football supporters yesterday after large groups charged through Brussels's main shopping street, broke windows and tried to loot shops.

About 30 Germans were arrested for carrying baseball bats, drugs, CS gas canisters or for hitting passers-by. But most were simply detained because they had no tickets for last night's European championship match between Belgium and Germany.

A police spokesman said mounted police dispersed a group of 400 to 500 would-be looters. Similar incidents were reported elsewhere in the city centre.

"We don't care whether Germany wins or loses," one masked fan told Belgian tele-

vision. "We're just here to smash up the town."

Police horses, some of them at the gallop, according to bystanders, dispersed about 50 young Germans in a side street near the city's main shopping precinct, Rue Neuve, after several shop windows had been broken.

In later confrontations, mounted police staged several more charges near the central railway station to break up groups of troublemakers. About 30 were arrested inside the station after throwing bottles and stopping passengers from catching trains.

Police said that many forged tickets had been found in police checks on supporters as they arrived for the game in the Anderlecht suburb of Brussels. (Reuters)

Howe takes experience to Coventry

By CHRIS MOORE

DON Howe, the former Arsenal and Queens Park Rangers manager, returns to full-time employment today as the first-team coach at Coventry City.

Howe, who was deputy to the former England manager, Bobby Robson, at last year's World Cup in Italy, has been coaching Barnet on a part-time basis this season.

His appointment at Highfield Road last night came less than 24 hours after Terry Butcher, the Coventry manager, dismissed his assistant manager, Mick Mills, and the reserve-team coach, Brian Eastick.

They became the first casualties of the new regime at Highfield Road following last week's return of Peter Robins as chairman. Howe will work without a

contract until the end of the season. "That will give all parties concerned the chance to see how things go," Butcher said. "But as far as I'm concerned, I'm hoping it's going to prove a long-term partnership and that he'll be signing a contract next summer."

"It's a major coup for Coventry to attract someone with his knowledge and experience," Butcher said.

Howe said: "I've known Terry throughout our England days and have a lot of respect for him. I have enjoyed my time at Barnet, but I'm delighted to be back in the game on a full-time basis again, particularly with a first division club. It's going to be an exciting new challenge."

Butcher, meanwhile, was last night given an unequivocal vote of confidence by

Robins in a bid to end speculation about his own future at Highfield Road. "To suggest his position has changed is absolute rubbish," Robins said.

"He is the right man for the job — it's as simple as that. We get on like a house on fire and see eye to eye on everything. He has a long contract here and we are certain he is going to prove himself a tremendous manager."

The Arsenal manager, George Graham, took his season's spending to £3.5 million when the Norwegian international defender, Paul Lydersen, completed his delayed move to Highbury. The left back from FK Start signed for £500,000 after problems over his work permit were solved. He now has his sights set on a first-team place.

More than 7,000 West Ham

supporters who have registered with the club's debenture scheme were told today that the Hammers' Bond would not cost them more than £1,000.

West Ham are hoping to raise more than £15 million to meet the cost of converting Upton Park to seats only to conform to the recommendations of the Taylor Report.

They had already said the cheapest bond would be £500 — and that raised fears that the more expensive debentures would be more than £2,000.

Brian Talbot, the Aldershot manager and managing director, said that the struggling fourth division club could face closure before Christmas. "We have been given three days by the Inland Revenue to pay a £92,000 bill — we simply do not have that sort of money," he said.

Brittain hopes early bird catches Japan Cup

From RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT
TOKYO

CLIVE Brittain is usually one step ahead of the field. First out with his horses at Newmarket, first British trainer to win a Breeders' Cup race, in 1985, and the Japan Cup, a year later, he stole another march on his rivals yesterday.

While other British trainers were still making the long journey to Japan, Brittain and Michael Roberts, his regular jockey, were at Tokyo's impressive racecourse at breakfast time, being reunited with Terimon.

On Sunday, the grey five-year-old, owned by Lady Beaverbrook, will attempt to follow the example set in 1986 by Jupiter Island by winning the Japan Cup and making

Britain the first trainer to have sent out two winners of this prestigious race.

The eleventh running of the invitation event promises to be one of the most open as Terimon, Rock Hopper, and Drum Taps, from Britain, join Magic Night, Wajid and Splash Of Colour, from France, Golden Pheasant, from the United States, Shaftesbury Avenue, from Australia, and Rough Habit, from New Zealand, in taking on home-based opposition.

The likely favourite for the £660,000 first prize will be Mcjiro McQueen, Japan's horse of the year elect, who has won top domestic events over distances ranging from ten furlongs to two miles. He will be ridden by Yutaka Take, a gifted jockey, aged 21,

who has pop-star status. Britain was in a buoyant mood as he supervised the first piece of serious work for Terimon since the horse emerged from seven days' quarantine. Roberts pushed and pumped on the grey during a vigorous nine-furlong spin on the inner dirt track.

Surrounded by about 40 Japanese journalists who hung on his every word, Brittain was confident about the chances of his Judmonte International Stakes winner. "My horse is in very good condition. We are pleased with his workout this morning and he is coming right up to his best racing weight of 486 kilos. On his best day, he would be good enough. My experience is that you must have luck and a good draw.

Our biggest danger is Lady Luck.

"Terimon has only run one below-par race this season, in the Champion Stakes, and afterwards we found some mucus in his throat and his blood count was a little bit off. But now the blood is spot-on."

Brittain rates his runner superior to Jupiter Island, but hopes a quirky link between the pair will pay off. "In 1986, Jupiter Island was first reserve for the race, but one dropped out and so we ran. Terimon was also first reserve initially, so I hope history repeats itself."

Trainer and jockey then walked the track, confirming the state of the going — firm. Drum Taps is stabled next door to Terimon and has clearly travelled well. The

Lord Huntingdon-trained five-year-old was ridden by Eddie Taylor during a nine-furlong workout yesterday and delighted Denis Cookley, the assistant trainer.

Rock Hopper, winner of three group two races this season, arrived at the race-track during the afternoon after completing his quarantine period. Michael Stoute's runner was accompanied by Mellaby, who acts as his lead horse during gallops.

Jimmy Scott, the head travelling lad to Stoute, said: "He travelled very well and has not left an oat since he arrived. He lost 20 kilos during the journey but put it back on within two days. If he is top-hole he will take a lot of beating."



Brittain confident

Sun.

The Story of a Computer Manufacturer.

PART 1 - SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

Sun Microsystems manufacture Workstations at factories in Silicon Valley, Ca. and Silicon Glen, Scotland. (A Workstation is to a Personal Computer as a horse is to a donkey).

Other firms making workstations include IBM, Digital Equipment Co., Hewlett Packard, Sony and Fujitsu. Against this competition, Sun's market share statistics are as follows:

- Number 1 in installed base — 450,000 sold.
- Number 1 in annual sales — more than 39%.
- Number 1 in RISC sales — more than 63%.
- Number 1 in applications — around 3600.
- 1981 worldwide sales — nil.
- 1991 worldwide sales — \$3,221,292,000.00.

One reason why Sun grew so fast is that it leads the world in Open Systems. In two respects.

1. Every Sun workstation and server (horse with elephant's memory) is delivered complete with the NFS network system allowing it to communicate with more or less any other computer, anywhere.
2. Sun's SPARC processor technology has, through SPARC International, been placed in the public domain. It is now an international standard. De, as we have been asked to point out, facto.

Only a few lines left for Morse Computers Ltd. Morse's market share statistic is as follows:

Number 1 reseller in annual UK sales of Sun workstations.



MORSE

Morse Computers Ltd, 78 High Holborn, London WC1, 071-831 0644.

West London Showroom: 17 Sherrin Lane, Mordake SW14, 081-876 0404.